

# The Chat

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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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VOL. VIII

JANUARY, 1944

No. 1

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At State College Station  
Raleigh, N. C.

# The Chat

BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
1943 Christmas Bird Count.....	1
Christmas Census, 1943.....	2
The Crow .....	5
The Right Homes for the Right Birds.....	7
A Visitor in the Night.....	9
Albinism Sometimes Due to Injuries.....	11
More Sanctuaries.....	11
The Eggs of Birds.....	13
In Memoriam .....	16
New Members.....	16
Officers of N. C. Bird Club.....	Inside Back Cover
Local Clubs and Their Officers .....	Inside Back Cover

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## THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Headquarters in the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh.

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

## The 1943 Christmas Bird Count

Reports from ten localities total 97 species reported for North Carolina. Although this is the lowest number of species reported for the past four years, we have had a good census in which counts of the more common species give us a fair picture of the bird life present.

There are at least three reasons for the small number of species: (1) Reports from the eastern part of the State are scarce, only Raleigh, Henderson, and Mattamuskeet-Pea Island alone would have added ten to twenty species. (2) Bad weather in most cases hindered observation, especially the ice on ponds causing waterfowl to go farther south. (3) Most of the observers were on foot, and while this makes a better count it does stop us from the old habit of racing about in the car during the afternoon to pick up species that were missed in the morning.

Good counts were made on hawks, woodpeckers, Cardinals, Mockingbirds, and sparrows, and even on ducks considering the ice. Mattamuskeet was low on ducks in spite of clear water. Cardinals total 550 as against 350 last year, when there was one more report than this year. Mockingbirds are about 150 this year to 100 last. Robins are scarce in land, each report giving less than last year except Mattamuskeet which had twice as many Robins as the total number reported last year. Warblers are quite scarce: Palms absent entirely, Pine not reported by many and then only in limited numbers, and Myrtles almost rare except at Mattamuskeet, where we expect to find them common in early winter before they move inland. One would have expected Wilson's Snipe and Horned Larks, and possibly some of the birds which are irregularly inland: Horned Grebe, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Golden-eye, Maryland Yellowthroat, and at Mattamuskeet some Tree Swallows.

Unusual species reported are: Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch, which appear to be having a flight year; Raven, Snow Goose, Turkey, and Woodcock, all of which are scarce enough to be interesting any time; Gadwalls at Chapel Hill make a second appearance for their list, though they are not rare at Raleigh, also the record of gulls at Chapel Hill is worth noting, for they are scarce inland even as far as Rocky Mount. Chipping Sparrows in winter are good records, particularly when it comes from the Smokies. Bewick's Wren is not reported often enough to be monotonous, but we confess our ignorance as to its status in the mountains.

Reported from only one locality: Whistling Swan, Canada and Snow Geese, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Bald Eagle, Ring-billed Gull, Screech-Great Horned, and Barred Owls, Black-capped Chickadees, Bewick's Wren, Catbird, Pipits, Rusty Blackbird, and Cowbirds.

Chapel Hill has the most species with 72, which is only 3 below the best for the State, which they also made, and Mattamuskeet tops all with 7,590 individuals. Credit is due to the three enthusiasts from Windom who put in 15 hours and walked 15 miles in bad weather in a county where it is hard to get a big list.

## Christmas Census, 1943

	Henderson Dec. 19	Durham Dec. 19	Great Smokies Dec. 19	Raleigh Dec. 21	Mattamuskeet Dec. 22	Statesville Dec. 22	Chapel Hill Dec. 22	Winston Dec. 22	Greensboro Dec. 27	Winston-Salem Jan. 2
Grebe, Pied-billed	1			4	14		1		1	
Heron, Great Blue					358					
Swan, Whistling					5564					
Goose, Canada					1					
Goose, Snow				74	32		11		3	
Mallard				80	194		55			
Duck, Black				2			3			
Gadwall					16		9			
Baldpate				4	215		7			
Pintail				1	2					
Teal, Green-winged					15		1			
Duck, Wood				79			50		8	
Duck, Ring-necked				18			6			
Duck, Lesser Scaup							27		5	
Buffle-head									2	
Duck, Ruddy				26			18		2	
Merganser, Hooded				1			10			
Merganser, American							15			
Merganser, Red-breasted	21	73	2	20	15	16	11		71	1
Vulture, Turkey	5			13	35		9		3	
Vulture, Black				1	2					
Hawk, Sharp-shinned		1		2	1	2	1		1	1
Hawk, Cooper's				5		1	3			
Hawk, Red-tailed				4	3	1	2		3	1
Hawk, Red-shouldered					7					
Eagle, Bald				1	2	2	3		1	
Hawk, Marsh				2	5	2	1		4	
Hawk, Sparrow				3						
Grouse, Ruffed	8	15	29	54	1		54		34	17
Bob-white										
Pheasant, Ring-necked				1		1				
Turkey							3			
Coot				3			22			
Killdeer	4			23		1	7			
Woodcock		1			1					
Gull, Herring					6		1			
Gull, Ring-billed					2					
Dove, Mourning	7	75	5	228	29	165	11		99	22
Owl, Screech										1
Owl, Great Horned				1						
Owl, Barred							2			
Kingfisher, Belted	1		6	4	1	1	3		8	
Flicker	1	19		11	15	10	19		25	4
Woodpecker, Pileated			6							
Woodpecker, Red-bellied				2		1	4		1	1
Woodpecker, Red-headed							2		10	
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied			1	2		7	2		7	1
Woodpecker, Hairy		2	6	2	1	2	3		5	2
Woodpecker, Downy	7	7	26	3	2	12	7		28	11
Phoebe	1	2	1	1		2	2		5	1
Jay, Blue	8	16	5	12		51	8		109	13
Raven			5							
Crow	17	46	157	87	49	30	35	250	115	55
Chickadee, Black-capped										
Chickadee, Carolina	14	30	144	11	6	73	47	3	147	19
Titmouse, Tufted	6	21	23	11		52	12	12	104	11
Nuthatch, White-breasted	9	6	1	3		15	9		22	2
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	8		3	4			3		102	6
Nuthatch, Brown-headed	2	3		3			5		2	
Creeper, Brown	1	2	5	2		4	4		12	4
Wren, Winter	1		13				2	4	6	
Wren, Bewick's			1							
Wren, Carolina	10	22	18	21	3	30	22	5	55	6
Mockingbird	4	14	6	14	7	33	3		54	12
Catbird					3					
Thrasher, Brown						2	1		2	
Robin			9	18	299	2	3		2	2
Thrush, Hermit		6	6	3		2	24		1	1
Bluebird	3	30	22	54		67	10		119	26



	Henderson Dec. 19	Durham Dec. 19	Great Smokies Dec. 19	Raleigh Dec. 21	Mattamuskeet Dec. 22	Statesville Dec. 22	Chapel Hill Dec. 22	Winston Dec. 22	Greensboro Dec. 27	Winston-Salem Jan. 2
Kinglet, Golden-crowned		31	76	25		65	9		218	39
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	1	3	1	9		33	4		44	9
Pipit, American		40								
Waxwing, Cedar						14	95			
Shrike		1	3	4		4			1	1
Starling		89	37	1180	3	43	7		165	43
Warbler, Myrtle	2	18		7	417	5	13		3	9
Warbler, Pine	1	2		2		12	3		13	1
Sparrow, English		111	121	284	26	40	11		248	74
Meadowlark		19	12	106	17	127	22	1	9	3
Red-wing	27			796	204		260			
Blackbird, Rusty							3			
Grackle, Purple				8	11				14	
Cowbird				297						
Cardinal	15	46	123	48	1	55	69	6	123	59
Finch, Purple			3	9			10			
Siskin, Pine			90	41			10		46	
Goldfinch	1	60	74	14		3	210	15	53	16
Towhee		26	5	15	2	28	16		54	3
Sparrow, Savannah				11			3		2	
Sparrow, Vesper				4		2				
Junco	40	253	314	264		120	495	12	945	366
Sparrow, Chipping			1				1			
Sparrow, Field	15	3	163	79	2	40	39	8	49	120
Sparrow, White-throated	37	39	72	254		83	250		218	70
Sparrow, Fox		2		70			16		3	
Sparrow, Swamp			4	5	2		16		4	
Sparrow, Song	18	22	130	273		20	130	10	72	60
	32	32	47	66	45	44	72	11	57	39
	296	1156	1736	4693	7590	1360	2002	326	1084	

*Henderson.* (Area within a ten-mile diameter and included Fox's Pond, Ruin Creek, field and pine woods adjacent to cemetery, and the Rose sanctuary.) Dec. 19—8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and 12:00 noon to 5:30 p.m. Clear; no wind; temp. 30° min. and 53° max. Four observers. Total hours afield, 7¼. (6¾ afoot—5½ miles afoot.) Mariel Gary, Hazel Rose (Mrs. G. E.), Claudia Hunter, B. H. Perry, Jr.

*Durham.* (Northwest of town 4 miles along Hillsboro Road; 5 miles west on Erwin Road; area near Duke University; open fields 40%, mixed pine and hardwoods 25%, pinewoods 20%, marsh 10%, town suburbs 5%.) Dec. 19—Clear; temp. 15° to 44° F.; no wind; ponds frozen. Ten observers in 3 parties. Total hours, 15 on foot; total miles, 20 on foot. M. W. Johnson, F. W. Constant, P. J. Kramer, Bertha Hopkins, P. R. Eastman, S. L. Gaillard, T. H. Wetmore, Virginia Ward, R. P. Sherman, Dan Williams.

*Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tenn.* (Same area as in past 6 years; circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte; including a section of the Tennessee-North Carolina divide from near Clingman's Dome to the Sawteeth; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge; spruce-fir forests 25%, stream courses 20%, deciduous forests 15%, abandoned fields 15%, open farm land 10%, towns and suburbs 10%, pine forests 5%.) Dec. 19—Fair; temp. 15° to 55° F.; wind variable, 1-12 m.p.h.; ground bare; streams frozen over in mountains, open in lowlands. Altitude range 1,200 to 6,300 feet. Twenty-four observers in seven parties.

Total hours afield, 50; total miles (on foot), 65. Claire Barrett, James Bumgarner, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Goodhue, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Isenberg, Elizabeth Johnson, James Johnson, Robert Johnson, W. M. Johnson, Emerson Kemsies, Dr. Henry Meyer, Robert Monroe, Elise Morrell, Capt. and Mrs. P. E. O'Meara, W. F. Pearson, Chester M. Shaffer, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, Paul Yambert (members and guests of East Tennessee Ornithological Society), Mary Ruth Chiles, Arthur Stupka (National Park Service).

*Raleigh.* (Practically same area as previous counts; lakes and small ponds 40%, mixed pine and deciduous woodland 15%, deciduous woodland 25%, pine woodland 10%, open fields 10%.) *Dec. 21*—Cloudy until 11 a.m.; wind S.W. varying from 13-20-8 m.p.h.; temp. 25° to 59° F.; snow on ground in shady places; small ponds covered with ice, larger lakes and ponds two-thirds covered with ice. Fifteen observers in five parties. Total hours, 26; total miles, 35, 27 on foot, 8 by car. C. S. Brimley, Bill Craft, John Coffey, Jr., Teddy Davis, G. M. Garren, Robert Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Green, John H. Grey, Douglas Jones, Norman McCulloch, Jr., Robert Overing, Mrs. R. C. Simpson, D. L. Wray, Tom Zaph.

*Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland.* (Same area as 1940 and subsequent counts, also on public road across lake; marsh 40%, shore and open water 20%, fields and thickets 30%, pine and cypress woods 10%.) *Dec. 22*—8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear; ground bare except for patches of snow; wind S.W., approx. 5 m.p.h.; temp. 40°-59° F. Three observers, mostly together. Total hours afield, 9; total miles, 11 (by car), 4 (on foot). Samuel H. Lamb, M. S. Johnson, W. G. Cahoon.

*Statesville (Iredell County).* (Oakwood Cemetery Sanctuary 25%, mixed woodlands 25%, farm 35%, section of Third Creek 15%.) *Dec. 22*—10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Clear, light southwest wind for 2 hours; temp. at start 35°; woodland stream partly frozen; ground bare; four observers together; one, other territory. Total hours, 7½ on foot; total miles, 3 on foot. Jane Eliason, Nancy Eliason, Sarah Nooe, Grace Anderson, W. G. Templeton.

*Chapel Hill.* (University Lake; Eastwood Lake; Odum Farm; Morgan's Creek; Mason Farm; Strowd's Lowground; Campus; water and mixed shore 40%, upland deciduous woods 15%, pine forest and sedge fields 5%, pasture and open farm land 25%, lowland thickets, rushes, and lake marsh 10%, town 5%.) *Dec. 22*—Fair; temp. 28° to 44° F.; wind N.W., 1-7 m.p.h.; ground bare; lake ¼ frozen. Seven observers in four parties. Total hours, 18 on foot; total miles, 15 on foot. Mrs. O. F. Jensen, H. T. Odum, Lindsey Olive, Phillips Russell, David Sharpe, G. F. Shepherd, Jr., Mrs. Harold Walters. (Chapel Hill Bird Club.)

*Windom.* (Mrs. C. P. Gibson's farm; two miles of Crabtree Creek; Bear Wallow Branch; woodland 10%, grown-up pasture 60%, open farm land 15%, stream 15%.) *Dec. 22*—Almost fair, thin fleecy clouds; temp. 40° to 50° F.; wind E.N.E. veering to W., 19-24 m.p.h. Three observers: a party of two, one alone. Total hours, 15; total miles, 15 (all on foot).

James Hutchins, member of N. A. S.; Mrs. C. P. Gibson, Bettie Sue Gibson, local bird enthusiasts.

*Greensboro.* (Section 15 miles across, including Pinecroft, Starmount, the Richardson estate, Greensboro country park, and Lakes Philadelphia, Buffalo, Scales, Sharpe, and Brandt; deciduous and mixed woodland 30%, open fields 20%, cattail marsh and thicket 15%, small freshwater lakes 35%.) *Dec. 27*—6:16 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Weather fair; temp. 42° to 55° F.; lakes, recently nearly frozen over entirely, still with a third or more of their surface ice-covered; heavy rains on Dec. 26 had melted the heavy sleet which had lasted two days. Twenty-four observers, mostly in 5 parties. Total hours, 47; total miles, 40 (37 by foot, 3 by power boat).

Miss Maude Adams, Mrs. Nellie Blackburn, Miss Inez Coldwell, Bill Craft, Larry Crawford, Miss Helen Cutting, Mrs. J. A. Goodwin, Douglas Haislip, Miss Mae Hardin, C. A. Holland, Miss Sidney Holmes, Raymond Kaighn, Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett, Miss Etta Schiffman, Mrs. Edith Settan, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swart, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Tate, Dr. Wesley Taylor, Mrs. Nina Tyner, Tom Zaph (members and guests of the Piedmont Bird Club).

*Winston-Salem.* (One-third same area 1942 count, 2 city parks, 2 creek valleys; 77% wooded, 23% farmed land.) *Jan. 2, 1944*—Overcast, intermittent sleet 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain to 4:45 p.m. Temp. hi. 51°, lo. 32° F. Observers, 1 lone, 2 groups 5 and 2. Total hours afoot, 7¾; total miles afoot, 15. Jim Stephenson alone, Rev. Douglass Rights and 4 Boy Scouts, Dennis Byerly, Jr., Hershel King, J. D. Gardner, Burton Rights; and Mrs. Leo Mehler and Henry Magie.

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## The Crow

EDDIE W. WILSON, Cary

What is more challenging on a gray day than the call of a crow? Its voice may seem harsh and raucous to some folks, but to me its note of greeting is singularly cheerful and wholesome. I love its repetitious "Caw" as it flaps by overhead or perches on a tree in the near-by woods. I find joy in its impudence, its spirit of bravado. This oscine friend gives me courage; and, as one writer has said, "Courage is the one thing needful."

On the other hand, many things have been broadcast against this friend of mine. In the main, I consider them unjust. However, we must admit that it is needful, now and then, to control the number of birds in some localities.

We find that the principal charges against the crow are its depredations on sprouting grain, especially corn, and the molesting of domestic fowls. Yet may not a scarecrow and proper screening often serve effectively against these? I recently heard of a new type of scarecrow which has proved suc-



cessful: a piece of bright tin or a mirror hung from a pole so that it will swing with the wind and reflect the sunlight.

Yet careful examinations of crows' stomachs have shown that these so-called marauders prefer acorns and animal life for food, that one-fifth of their diet consists of such insects as grasshoppers, May beetles and their larvae (or white grubs), caterpillars, weevils, and wireworms. They like to feast upon mice and other small rodents, spiders, crawfish, mollusks, toads, salamanders, frogs, and snakes. As a carrion eater, the crow renders important service. Audubon, recognizing the value of crows, says in his *Episodes*: "Honest farmer! Why did you kill so many crows last winter? . . . You have killed your own friend, the poor crow."

This great ornithologist made frequent other references to the crow in his writings. I like his description of an evening in Kentucky:

"The heavens have already opened their twinkling eyes although the orb of day has scarcely withdrawn itself from our view. How calm is the air! The nocturnal insects and quadrupeds are abroad; the Bear is moving through the dark cane-brake, the land Crows are flying towards their roosts . . . the Squirrel is barking his adieu and the Barred Owl glides silently and swiftly from his retreat to seize upon the gay and noisy animal."

Audubon, in describing a "fine sugar camp" belonging to the Fox Indians of the Missouri River country, says that the Indians "had killed many Wild Turkeys, Geese, and Crows, all of which they eat." But this was quite exceptional as the early Indian tribes held the crow in high esteem. Roger Williams tells us in his *Key into the Language of America, 1643*, that the New England tribes would not kill crows even though they damaged the corn because it was their belief that these birds had brought them their first grain and vegetables, carrying a grain of corn in one ear and a bean in the other "from the happy spirit world where dwell the gods and the souls of the great and good."

And speaking of the crow in association with these early American peoples, I have found in my ethnological studies that the bird figured prominently in Indian warfare, religion, and the hunt. It was used as a design in art, Iroquois clay pipes having been shaped in the form of a crow. The crow feather signified death among the ancient Creeks and was used in war because its color is a reminder of death and the shadow-land. The crow was prominent in the buffalo hunt. For instance, when the Omahas saw crows hovering over a certain spot or soaring widely they knew that a large herd of animals was near. This characteristic action of the crow prompted the priests to give this bird a place in the buffalo hunting rite. And the crow was the sacred bird of the Ghost Dance of the Arapaho, Sioux, and Cheyenne. This was a religious dance whose object was to bring back the buffalo to the Plains; here the crow was the directing messenger.

Crows of the long ago and crows of the present—both fascinate me. May there continue to be crows all along the way!



## The Right Homes For The Right Birds

G. F. SHEPHERD and PHILLIPS RUSSELL, Chapel Hill

["Perhaps you could furnish us under your department *Questions and Answers* with the information as to just what type of nesting boxes should be provided for the different birds. I find that most of us like to make our own boxes, but few of us have the knowledge of the dimensions required." Capt. W. A. Angwin, U.S.N. (M.C.). U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital, Asheville.]

When we recall seeing some of the very flimsy and crude facilities used by birds in their natural surroundings we may conclude that the actual needs are few. It is very easy for us to meet those needs with small expenditure of time and work. To make the offered shelters safer, and perhaps more comfortable for the occupants, there are certain principles of design, construction, and location that should be observed.

A well-built bird house ought to be rainproof, durable, ventilated, and readily accessible for cleaning. Also it is well to bear in mind that high standards of neatness and rustic beauty may not only serve their utilitarian purpose but lend an attractive touch to the dooryard.

*Materials.* For anyone wishing to make his own bird houses, wood is the best material. Metal gets too hot in the sun. Pottery is all right, but it is not so easily made at home. In the choice of wood, get something that is easily workable, such as pine, cypress, or poplar. Rough slabs right from the sawmill are excellent and cheap. The wood may be painted without objection to the tenant, and it makes a more durable house. Houses that are much in the sun, such as those for martins, should be painted white in order to reflect the heat; otherwise, shades of brown, gray, or green are generally preferred.

*Protection from rain.* Roofs should be made with pitch great enough to shed water readily. If a flat, cap-like roof is used cut a groove across the overhanging part to prevent drainage to the interior of the house. The overhang should project two to three inches in order to protect the entrance-way from driving rain.

*Protection from heat.* Don't construct an oven. The hearty nestlings raise the inside temperature greatly. Bore a few one-eighth inch holes in the bottom and in the sides up under the overhang. However, don't bore holes in martin houses in such a way as to create drafts through the low entrance hole. If possible, make the roof double thick with an air space between.

*Accessibility.* All bird boxes should be built and placed so that they may be easily opened and cleaned. The opening may be adapted for observing the family inside from time to time. A hinged roof, or bottom, is a very good arrangement, or a hinged opening may be provided.

*Entrances.* For all except martins, the hole should be made near the top. The surface inside should then be roughened in order to assist the young in reaching the entrance. Perches at the entrance in most cases mean an aid to the enemy and not to the occupant.

*Location of house.* The fact that a bird house is not used the first season it is put up is not necessarily an indication that it is improperly built or placed. There may be more nesting facilities than the resident bird population can occupy. To be easily accessible, the box should not be placed beyond the reach of a ladder, or it will be neglected in cleaning. Houses on poles seem most acceptable—perhaps as a matter of safety. Except for martins, they should not be too high. Avoid dense and shadowy woods. Except for colony birds, don't put houses too close together. A pair of birds will insist on territorial rights. Competition and conflict will bring failure.

One of the chief enemies of box-nesting birds is the sinuous black snake. Squirrels from near-by woods may be also troublesome. Therefore, set and protect the box so as to keep out these enemies.

Anyone living close to a forest, wood, or grove of trees will find that nature has already provided a series of bird boxes for him, and that all he has to do is to cut them into proper lengths and scoop out an entrance. These nature-made boxes consist of hollow trunks or tree limbs that can be found wherever trees have grown to a diameter of four inches or more. Birds often seem to prefer such houses to more elaborate or store-bought dwellings. It must be admitted, however, that these houses are not as ornate as the manufactured structures and do not always accord with carefully shaven lawns and barbered grounds.

The seeker only has to advance with his weapons, an axe and a saw, into the woods and locate a hollow by observation or by watching the movements of woodpeckers, flickers, bluebirds, titmice, and chickadees. Sometimes such birds can be found inspecting sites for the ensuing season's homes. Suitable hollows can be found in dogwoods, poplars or tulip trees, oaks, and maples; in fact, in almost any tree in which the cambium layer has been bruised or broken into. A few strokes of the axe or saw will sever the hollow place. The top and bottom may be closed simply by tacking on a piece of slab or a section sawed from a plank and painted. Keep the entrance holes small if you want chickadees, larger if you want bluebirds, titmice, and wrens. The holes can be made with a chisel.

As to setting your sawed hollow, place it in a fairly open spot sheltered by a bit of shade and protected from snakes. To place it in the edge of the woods is only to invite squirrels, grey and flying, to take possession. Keep out English Sparrows and Starlings by showing them they are not wanted; if necessary, use a rifle. One great advantage of the sawed hollow is that it is cooler than the manufactured box. The birds often prefer it to any other.

A most practical and handy guide will be found in the following twenty-four page pamphlet:

Kalmbach, E. R., and McAtee, W. L., *Homes for Birds*. (U. S. Department of the Interior. Fish and Wildlife Service. Conservation Bulletin 14.) Washington, 1942.

Borrow it from your nearest library or purchase it from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for ten cents.

Table of dimensions of nesting boxes for various species that will use them in this region:

SPECIES	Floor of cavity Inches	Depth of cavity Inches	Entrance above floor Inches	Diameter of entrance Inches	Height above ground Feet
Bluebird .....	5 x 5	8	6	1½	5-10
Robin .....	6 x 8	8	(1)	(1)	6-15
Chickadee .....	4 x 4	8-10	6-8	1⅛	6-15
Titmouse .....	4 x 4	8-10	6-8	1¼	6-15
Nuthatch .....	4 x 4	8-10	6-8	1¼	12-20
House Wren .....	4 x 4	6-8	1-6	1-1¼	6-10
Carolina Wren .....	4 x 4	6-8	1-6	1½	6-10
Purple Martin .....	6 x 6	6	1	2½	15-20
Starling .....	6 x 6	16-18	14-16	2	10-25
Phoebe .....	6 x 6	6	(1)	(1)	8-12
Crested Flycatcher .....	6 x 6	8-10	6-8	2	8-20
Flicker .....	7 x 7	16-18	14-16	2½	6-20
Red-headed Woodpecker....	6 x 6	12-15	9-12	2	12-20
Downy Woodpecker .....	4 x 4	8-10	6-8	1¼	6-20
Hairy Woodpecker .....	6 x 6	12-15	9-12	1½	12-20
Screech Owl .....	8 x 8	12-15	9-12	3	10-30
Sparrow Hawk .....	8 x 8	12-15	9-12	3	10-30
Wood Duck .....	10 x 18	10-24	12-16	4	10-20

(1)—One or more sides open to form a shelf effect.

## A Visitor in the Night

NELL E. SHELL, Royal Pines, Arden

When we moved into our own special *Shangri La*, on the side of Blake Mountain in Royal Pines, our hearts were very soon filled to overflowing with joy in the natural beauty which surrounded us. There was hardly a moment during the day when a very real and deep sense of contentment was not with us. From earliest dawn to earliest dawn . . . in spring, summer, fall and winter, the woods were filled with ever-changing delights and surprises. Even in the dead of night, we often awoke and heard the little chirping voice of some small bird, as he reassured and comforted his mate, in the ivy on the wall near our windows. And there were other times, in the subdued light of early dawn, when we awoke just as the tree-tops seemed to come alive with many little feathered creatures, whose soft trills and chirps, trembled through the branches; and we lay there, listening, with indescribable peace in our souls, as their voices filled the air with ever-increasing volume and tempo . . . until the sun rose higher in the heavens to pour its golden light upon the earth, and the woods, everywhere about us, became a gold-and-green filigreed cathedral full of bird-song. . . . No orchestra of highest quality has ever thrilled its audience any more



than those little bursting throats have thrilled us on many a summer morn!

But there was one feathered inhabitant of Bird Kingdom whose eerie voice invariably brought goose-pimpling chills to our spines, whenever we heard his call; and I think he must have known it, because, one night, he seemed to have suddenly decided to do something about it.

Always, in the middle of the night, when his spine-tingling screech came to our ears, a certain delightful shivery sense of uneasiness would take hold of us, and make us want to duck our heads under our pillows and draw the covers up close to our chins—just as we had done when we were children, and nurse had sent chills to our bones with tales of the vicious attacks which nesting Screech Owls sometimes made upon human beings who approached too near to their young. Even in our adult minds, we still felt a certain childhood delight in the experience; because it brought a particularly happy consciousness of our own security in our rooms. Let Mr. Screech Owl screech! He could never reach *us*, so snugly tucked in our beds behind our window screens.

It was after such a night that I opened my eyes one morning and saw, upon the back of a chair near my bed, His Honor, Mr. Screech Owl, himself . . . in all his solemn dignity . . . blinking down upon me. He must have been accustomed to the sight of me . . . and, also, to the sound of my voice; because he sat perfectly still and quiet when I called to my husband . . . quite loudly . . . trying very hard not to sound too terribly excited. . . .

He must, also, have been acquainted with my husband; because he remained very calm and trusting as he approached him, lifted him from his perch on the chair and placed him on the window sill. . . where workmen, who had been there the day before, had neglected to replace the screen. Even after he had been placed in the window, he seemed in no hurry to make his departure, but went about the business of taking off as deliberately as if he had been accustomed to such procedure every day of his life. . . .

Thus, through the tact of one sedate and unobtrusive caller, our prejudice concerning Screech Owls has been successfully dispelled: but, we find ourselves, now, wondering what Mr. Owl might be thinking of us!

Whether his family's meat ration was running so dangerously low that he was forced to come through our window, in search of an errant mouse or chipmunk, I do not know. . . . Whether he had followed some prey, which had slipped in through the window . . . just as he, himself, had done . . . and had successfully captured and carried it away to his young, to return and wait for more, I cannot say. . . . Whether he thought that we, in our beds, were some peculiar new kind of giant rodent . . . perhaps, even, black market . . . remains a moot question. . . . But, I do sincerely hope that the gentleman in question is as firmly convinced of our harmlessness as we are, now, of his.

## Albinism Sometimes Due To Injuries

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

Some fifty years ago I skinned a partial albino male Red-wing that had been brought in for mounting. This bird had a large white patch of feathers on one side of the breast, the right if I remember correctly, and some white secondaries on the right wing, and there may have been other smaller patches of white elsewhere, but I am not sure. Under the white patch on the breast was an old shot wound where a single shot had ploughed through the flesh and left a furrow, on each side of which the flesh was discolored and almost gangrened in appearance. I do not remember whether the wing under the white secondaries showed any wound or not, but they were presumably due to the same charge of shot.

I have seen partial albino Field Sparrows a number of times, most often with some of the tail feathers only white, and these usually on one side only, which suggests to me that the original feathers might have been pulled out by some predator making a grab at the bird and only succeeding in violently wrenching some of its tail feathers loose, causing the next ones to be white from the rough usage. I also once handled a Swift with one white feather on the top of the head, which caused me to wonder if a single shot might not have torn away its predecessor and injured the skin enough to destroy the pigment in that one spot only.

Besides the preceding, I have seen albinos, or the State Museum has records of such of the following: Red-tailed Hawk, Bob-white, Dove, Crow, Blue Jay, Winter Wren, Mockingbird, Thrasher, Robin, Gold-crowned Kinglet, Cardinal, Song, White-throated, and English Sparrow. It may be noted that all except the Swift are either residents or winter birds, none being summer visitors or transients except the Swift, and that, having only a single white feather, can hardly be counted as an albino.

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## More Bird Sanctuaries

HENRY MAGIE, Winston-Salem

"Keep 'em fed, keep 'em flying" is today's slogan for bird lovers to adopt in this war-torn world, so consider my outline of North Carolina's need for more organized effort to increase the welfare of our songbirds by means of more bird sanctuaries.

We certainly have made a fine start in our 14 counties with our 17 bird sanctuaries, embracing 220,000 acres, variously owned and operated by Federal, State, municipal, and private interests, but that achievement is not the goal to be gained, rather it is a challenge to all of us to increased effort to attract, befriend, defend our songbirds, one of North Carolina's natural resources; also, our songbirds are the first line of defense against the countless hordes of insect pests that damage our growing food and the noxious weeds that damage our growing food.

Well, folks, that's our need briefly stated. Read on, sense the cost and the effect. The major cost is clear thinking and manful, honest effort. The outlay in money will differ with conditions and size. My experience with a 400-acre bird sanctuary shows the capital outlay to be \$200 for 10 feeding stations, 100 nesting boxes, 5 bird baths, 3 highway signs designating name and purpose of the sanctuary, and \$40 annual operating expense for bird feed.

How to start? Our beloved Tar Heel birdman, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, told me, "All man can do is to furnish the protection and the birds will respond and do the rest." That is your chart and compass. First explore your section, the improved estates, golf courses, city parks, city water sheds, orphanages, college campuses. Five to 5,000 acres is suggested size range for your study. Essential conditions are: woods, thickets, wild land, cultivated land, lawns, shrubbery with winter-bearing berries. A stream or lake is desirable. In general, find conditions that supply the natural food and support for your songbirds, the all-year resident, summer nesting, winter visiting and migrating species.

Your next step, confer with the owner of the selected sanctuary, explain its purpose, cost, effect—and don't surrender at the first brush-off, but arrange a further conference by owner and your State Biologist for your district. Your letter to John D. Findlay, Assistant Commissioner, N. C. Department of Conservation and Development, Raleigh, will bring you this invaluable service *gratis*. This second conference will fully develop the co-operating plan in our State Conservation by their 5-year agreement with owner and your bird club or group of citizens as sponsor.

Your study will be wisely guided by your writing to the Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., for Bureau of Biological Survey Bulletin No. 1, "Attracting Birds"; also Bulletin No. 1456, "Homes for Birds"; Bulletin 7, "Local Bird Refuges."

With your sanctuary launched, build and install your feeding stations, bird baths, highway signs and nesting boxes and PLEASE build sensible nesting boxes, with nest area, diameter and height of hole especially suited and erected for certain species, Bluebird, Wren, Chickadee, Purple Martin, Woodpecker, etc., because, ornamental, fancy, just "bird boxes" are pure bunk and worse than useless. Don't forget the sheet metal guards on your post or tree supporting your feeders to safeguard your birds from cats, snakes, squirrels.

Fix the responsibility for your year-round feed supply. Feeding once begun must never slacken when there is need, especially during storms, snow, sleet, ice, when the birds' natural food on the ground is denied them. Food is simple, easy to get. Chick feed, cracked grains, shelled and broken peanuts, sunflower seed, cornbread, bread crumbs, fresh and dried fruits, crushed dog biscuit, all are an accepted menu for many of your songbirds, with shredded meat and suet mixture for your insect eating species and for all species the entree, the meat course, the dessert is, and don't neglect it, a lump of raw beef suet.



Now, you have my outline of the need and the cost. Who can tell you the effect. My assurance is that the sanctuary area will be freer from insect pests and weeds. My fixed belief is that the bird population will steadily increase. Certainly a widened, deepened interest among children and adults and their understanding and appreciation of our songbirds, and, undeniably the greatest reward from attracting, feeding, befriending your songbirds will be the warm, human enjoyment of their beauty, colors, flight, song, nesting habits, their soul-satisfying companionship.

Accept my challenge, folk from Hatteras to the Smokies, for more bird sanctuaries. Yours is the opportunity; seize it, and remember, "mistakes are the steps by which higher men rise, and they're always the proof of the fellow who tries."

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## The Eggs of Birds

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

The very mention of eggs, of course, brings up at once the old question, "Which comes first, the hen or the egg?" which any zoologist can at once answer. The egg comes first, for the ancestors of hens laid eggs of the same general type as at the present time, long before they evolved into hens, but were still nothing but plain ordinary reptiles.

As reptiles are the original layers of the type of eggs of which those of birds are the highest development, it may be well to consider the characters of their eggs as distinguished from those of birds. In the first place, their eggs are usually covered with a flexible skin: only a few of the turtles lay eggs having hard shells. Secondly, they are naturally white and never have any distinct markings; and thirdly, there is no big end and no little end, both ends are alike.

Now reptiles' eggs are always laid in a hole in the ground dug by the parent, or under some kind of shelter, never in the open air, so there is no need of any markings to help break the solid white color, as they are not exposed to the eyes of any creature that might wish to devour them, and consequently they need no protective coloration. The eggs of birds, however, are most often laid in open nests, and consequently need some sort of protective color or markings to make them less conspicuous to the eyes of hungry prowlers. Hence, in the course of ages they have mostly developed either a protective color or some sort of darker markings on a paler ground.

Unfortunately for anyone who tries to make generalized statements on the subject, many groups of birds most evidently have become "set in their ways" in the matter of egg-laying, coloration and other matters concerning their eggs. Thus the hummingbirds, which number some 600 species, all lay two white eggs to the set, and these eggs have no perceptible larger end, they are equal-ended like those of reptiles. Members of another family, the doves, also usually lay two white eggs to the set, although some

species lay only one. Woodpeckers also lay white eggs, but they do not confine themselves to as small a number as two in a set. The color of these last can be accounted for by the fact they lay, and probably have always laid, their eggs in holes excavated in trees, but this does not account for the white eggs of doves and hummers. Many of the primitive groups of birds produce eggs that are plainly colored, not by any means always white, but often buff or olive-green, or even darker, as in the ducks, or sometimes covered with a chalky crust, as in the cormorants, or even if white when laid get so quickly stained by damp vegetation of which the nest is composed that they are quite inconspicuous. However, the eggs of the higher birds, especially the Perchers and the Shore-bird-Gull-Auk group, almost always lay eggs with markings, although some such as the thrushes often lay unmarked blue or greenish-blue eggs; the birds of these two orders either laying their eggs on the bare ground in exposed situations, as in the latter group, or open nests, as in the former group.

In the latter group the heavy markings make the egg harmonize with its surroundings, as anyone who has tried to find the eggs of a tern or a plover can testify, and as a further protection in this group the eggs are conspicuously pear-shaped with a pronounced big and little end, so that the egg, if disturbed, tends to rotate in a circle rather than to roll away in any direction.

The egg-laying habits of the woodpeckers deserve notice. They lay pure white eggs nearly spherical in shape and make no nests, but simply dig a hole in a tree, usually a dead one, and deposit the eggs on the bare wood at the bottom, quite a reptilian sort of habit, the chief difference being that the bird broods its eggs while the reptile usually does not; but even in this respect the difference is not so absolute as it would seem, as we now know that some snakes and lizards do brood on their eggs to some extent.

Owls, which also use hollows, or the discarded nests of other birds, also lay white eggs; but certain other birds which use hollows, such as the Crested Flycatcher, the Titmice and the Nuthatches, lay spotted eggs. Why?

The answer probably is that with the owls and woodpeckers the use of hollows is an old hereditary trait, while in the other cases it is a recently adopted one. In this case of the titmice it may be noted that the California Bush Tit, and the English Long-tailed Tit both build covered nests, showing that the use of hollows is not universal in the family, while the Crested Flycatcher is an exception in its family, which seems to be unsettled as to the nesting habits of its members. It may be concluded, therefore, that the possession of spotted eggs by these birds is inherited from the days when they all built nests.

In the opposite case, where white eggs are laid in open nests, as, for instance, among the hummingbirds and doves, it would seem that for some reason they have never acquired the spotted egg habit, and this is strengthened by the fact that the number of eggs in these two groups is also a group habit, the number not exceeding two in either.

Certain groups of birds that nest on the ground lay an unusually large number of eggs to the set, about a dozen in most cases, as, for instance, the rails, gallinules, ducks and gallinaceous birds, while other ground nesting birds, such as the whole charadriiform group (sandpipers-gulls-auks) lay not more than four to the set, and yet hold their own just as well. I am sorry to say I cannot answer this question. However, one can be certain that no matter how few or how many eggs are laid to the set, nor how many broods are raised in the season, the total will be just about the right number to make up for the seasonal loss of the population of the particular species involved.

In size, birds' eggs vary from those of the tiny hummingbird, only about half an inch long and a third of an inch wide, to those of the huge *Aepyornis* or Roc-bird of Madagascar, that is now extinct but lived until comparatively recent times, and laid eggs that were sometimes over 13 inches long. This would mean an egg that weighed some 25 or 30 pounds and had a capacity of some 2 or 3 gallons.

The largest laid by any living bird are those of the African Ostrich, which are some 6 inches long, weigh nearly 3 pounds, and equal in bulk about 2 dozen hens' eggs.

Another point may be noticed and that is, what is the survival value, if any, of large sets of eggs, and of several broods to the season, instead of small sets and single broods. The answer seems to be that taking the bird world as a whole there does not seem to be any, but that there doubtless is in the case of each species in its particular niche of life.

All birds' nests are subject to casualties from prowling predators, whether cats, jays, or boys, to destruction by storms, through accidents to their owners, and so on. Years ago we found out by chance that when the eggs and nest of a bird were taken, it would immediately start building another nest, and would have another full set of eggs in that nest in almost exactly two weeks time. This, of course, applies to the small passerine birds. This would be repeated if the second nest was taken, and sometimes at least when the third was, and this was true of birds that naturally laid only one set in the season. Birds that nest on low sandy islands, such as the gulls and terns, sometimes have the whole season's batch of eggs all washed away by unusually high tides, but as soon as the storm is over they start all over again. Probably the two or three brooded habit arose in just this way, but whether it did or not it does not seem to give the species that raise more than one brood any advantage over those that raise only one.

As already noted, most birds' eggs have a little end and a big end, and this has two purposes, first, the eggs lay more snugly in the nest, and secondly, in the case of those birds that do not build a nest but lay their eggs in a simple depression in the ground, it prevents them from rolling about in any direction when disturbed.

Birds brood, or sit on, their eggs in order to incubate them, and during the incubation period they turn the eggs at intervals, for the reason that if they are left in the same position all the time they will not hatch. Now



there is a curious difference in this respect with regard to the eggs of some kinds of turtles. The eggs are laid in a hollow dug in the ground and then covered up. As soon as the eggs are laid the embryo assumes a certain position in the egg and if the position of the egg is changed the embryo dies. Consequently, collected eggs of most turtles can be depended on not to hatch.

The eggs are incubated, as a general rule, by the mother bird; however, in some cases both sexes share in the incubation, and occasionally only the male performs that duty.

Only one group of birds, so far as I know, do not incubate their eggs, these being the Mound Builders or Brush Turkeys of Australasia, which heap up a pile of vegetable matter, in other words, make a hotbed in which several hens lay their eggs and leave them to be hatched by the heat of the fermenting mass. The young hatch with wing quills well developed and at once fly out of the nest heap and go about their individual activities.

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## IN MEMORIAM

George Seth Guion, charter member of the North Carolina Bird Club, died in his home city of New Orleans in July, 1943, and was interred in Materie Cemetery there. He was a lawyer and also an ardent bird-lover and conservationist. One of his hobbies was collecting ornithological periodicals, of which he had an excellent library, including a complete copy of *The Chat*.

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- |  |  |
|--|--|
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# The Chat

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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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Raleigh, N. C.

# The Chat

## BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

JOHN GREY, JR., *Editor*  
State College Station  
Raleigh, N. C.

C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*  
N. C. Department of Agriculture  
Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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VOL. VIII

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### CONTENTS

	PAGE
My Sanctuary .....	17
Tommy Bluebird Clarkson .....	19
The Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary .....	20
Some Notes on Bird Nesting .....	21
1944 Meeting of the N. C. Bird Club .....	23
Questions and Answers .....	24
Notes on the Time of Incubation of Certain Birds .....	26
Geese on the Yadkin .....	27
In Memoriam .....	28
Wings at Winghaven .....	29
Local Names of Birds Wanted .....	30
News and Notes .....	30
News of Clubs from Other States .....	32
Officers of N. C. Bird Club .....	Inside back cover
Local Clubs and Their Officers .....	Inside back cover

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### THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Headquarters in the North Carolina State Museum, Raleigh.

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer: Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

# My Sanctuary

MRS. G. E. CHARLES

The story of my sanctuary is not being offered because it is considered worthy of space in *THE CHAT*, but simply because the Editor has asked for it. It is true, the birds have done their part to make this a place of interest to all bird-minded people, but many times have they had to stand aside for man to have his own way and promote his own interests.

But the birds have done great things on this little spot of ground in the eight years of my observations on the bird life here, not because of what man has done to attract them, but in spite of what he has done to drive them away.

Our house is on a hillside. Our lot of about three-quarters of an acre slopes down to a wooded area which is owned by other parties. When we bought our home and came here to live in 1925, this wooded area was mainly an impenetrable swamp and swarmed with birds. In winter and early spring the reports of shotguns and the rattle of shot on our metal roof were almost unbearable.

In 1935 the undergrowth was cut and the place ditched and drained by some sort of relief workers. It was about this time that I was struggling slowly back to health from a long illness and casting about for something to fill the great aching void that my separation from the busy world had brought about. It was then I found the birds which had been so long with me, yet I had not known them.

Feeding shelves were erected in the yard and gradually moved a little nearer until finally the wild, shy creatures were brought to the window at my very elbow! When physical strength permitted there were strolls day after day in the woods. But it was not until 1939 that I learned how to find nests.

By that time my strength had come back to a great degree; the elder bushes and blackberry briars had grown up again from their cutting in 1935, and they, with the wild cherries, mulberries, hackberries, and black-gums, furnished a year-around supply of food. A stream of fresh water ran the entire length of the area. Some bird houses had been erected on our lot and the feeding shelves in the yard were kept supplied the year around. But the shooting still went on.

Working alone on these three or four acres in 1939, I found 65 nests of 13 species of native birds. They were: Bluebird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 4; Blue Jay, 1; Cardinal, 4; Catbird, 26; Carolina Wren, 3; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Flicker, 1; Grackle, 9; Mockingbird, 1; Mourning Dove, 1; Orchard Oriole, 5; Wood Thrush, 3; and unidentified, 3.

One of the nests of 1939 was built in an old shoe under our house. In it a pair of Carolina Wrens raised a brood of five young. One day my daughter and I watched the nest from daylight to dark and found the parents came with food to the young 205 times. I wrote the story of this family of Wrens and offered it to *The State*, Columbia's leading daily



newspaper. This one called for more and more, and the published articles spurred some Columbians to action which led to the posting of the place as a State Sanctuary in 1941.

This was a long step forward, but still the place does not have the protection it needs. It is not in the city. The county game warden lives twelve miles away and has a big county to look after. West Columbia is not a part of Columbia, or even in the same county.

By 1942 the ditches had filled up and the place was getting swampy with many water holes. To protect the soldiers in near-by camps from malaria, the State Board of Health sent over a crew of men in late April to cut and burn the undergrowth and spray for mosquitoes. Bird nesting had already begun and many nests went up in flames.

After it was all over and my eyes had cleared up from tears and smoke, I walked out to see what the birds were going to do about it. On a little hillside where the sanctuary cornered against my chicken yard and the road, a sparse growth of bushes had been spared. There I found a pair of cat-birds building in a Chinaberry bush; a pair of orchard orioles carrying nest material to a black gum; a pair of doves building on a pine limb; and a pair of cardinals nesting in a vine-covered bush by the road. And so it went on and on.

At the end of the season I had found 69 nests by 15 species. This was about the usual number, though a larger territory had been covered. The cutting had opened the way for me to go farther down stream into where had been impenetrable thickets. And through the kindness of some neighbors, a gate had been opened into a cow pasture and that added to my sanctuary. So the area is now seven acres, which is about twice what it was before the cuttings began in 1942.

Other than a strip along the hillside, the undergrowth has been cut twice each of the last two years.

Each of the last five years 60-odd nests have been found here. Nesting species other than those mentioned have been: Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Field Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, Screech Owl, and Yellowthroat. There has been some shifting of nesting species due to the cuttings. For instance, nesting Yellowthroats are out for the duration, and Field Sparrows just came in last season.

Beginning with 1939, in this small area I have found around 350 nests by 20 species of native birds. Beginning October, 1935, I have identified here 94 species, among them such rare ones as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Blue-winged Warbler, and many have gone by unidentified. And beyond our lot, nothing has been done to attract the birds.

West Columbia, S. C.

## TOMMY BLUEBIRD CLARKSON

April 25, 1936, to December 11, 1943

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON

Tommy no longer charms his family and friends with Bluebird conversation and flash of blue wing in the flesh, but always "in that inward eye that is the bliss of solitude" he lives and greets those that love him.

His friends will rejoice to know that he died quickly, apparently painlessly, and in his mistress' hand. Tommy was in his prime and lived a happy, healthy, useful life to the very last moment. It was useful in that he gave happiness not only to his intimate friends but to hundreds of children and grown-ups who came to see him and to hundreds more who only heard about him. Who could ask more of life?

The past year he had eaten, on an average, 1,000 of the largest size meal worms every fifteen days, besides the grasshoppers, grubs, moths, etc., which he used as "fillers." The meal worms were ordered regularly from Kansas and kept alive for his use. Yes, Tommy was definitely a luxury, but what a luxury! How else could one buy so much absorbing interest and pleasure and companionship, for Tommy was nothing if not companionable. He showed in hundreds of Bluebird ways that we were his family. He tried to feed us choice tidbits of spiders and worms which he had daintily prepared for us, and we never came home without being greeted enthusiastically. He preferred any room where we were to all others, and showed his affection by snuggling down on us and wanting to be stroked and petted. His helpful ministrations when his mistress combs her hair are sorely missed, for he always playfully considered himself custodian of her hairpins and defended his right to carry them to the four corners of his world.

When Mrs. Simpson came to Charlotte last October to talk to the Mecklenburg Audubon Club she came to see Tommy and he liked her as much as she liked him. In fact, he sat on her head while she drank her tea. She said that if anything ever happened she would like to mount him, little thinking that the time would come so soon. So now Tommy is ready to be taken to his many friends. Before, he could never travel because he did not know the meaning of a cage or of a restraint of any kind upon his freedom. His first trip after the one to Raleigh to the State Museum will be to Greensboro to his friends in the Piedmont Bird Club on March 16.

Tommy ruled over Wing Haven for nearly eight years right royally and his loyal subjects were rich in his reign. They will always be enriched by the knowledge he gave them of birds in general and of Bluebirds in particular, and all who enter Wing Haven must feel the happiness that Bluebirds always bring.

## The Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary

GRACE ANDERSON

The North Carolina Bird Club has given the birds about Swannanoa, N. C., an invitation to board and keep on the grounds of the Moore General Hospital there.

Last fall, through a donation from the Conservation Department of the Statesville Community Club, and permission from the Field Director of the American Red Cross at the Hospital, the Club began to build up a Bird Sanctuary for the patients, returned overseas men.

With the assistance of Miss Parrish, Field Director of the Red Cross, plans were begun.

A visit to the grounds showed Sanctuary building would be slow as, except for one small group of trees, there is not a twig for a bird to perch on. Simultaneously with the Sanctuary, a Bird Club was started among the patients. The foundation stone was laid with the gift of two copies of *Birds of North Carolina*, presented by Mr. H. H. Brimley and the Statesville Audubon Club. The donation was followed by subscriptions to *THE CHAT* and to the Audubon Magazine; the Cornell University bird records of seventy-two bird songs; a number of feeding stations furnished with seed cakes; the National Audubon Society's complete set of bird charts, and over a hundred pieces of shrubbery, mostly berried varieties, to provide bird food.

The Manual Training Department of the Swannanoa Farm School is reproducing the bird houses and stations given the Sanctuary, the lumber for the same being purchased by funds from the donation check. Twenty-five pounds of bird seed opened the inns to feathered guests. Letters were sent to North Carolina Bird Club members in the vicinity, requesting their assistance in helping the new club at the Moore in beginning its study.

Friendly gestures were made the North Carolina Bird Club and the Sanctuary from many sources. The Massachusetts Audubon Society sent a parcel of literature on birds and bird house construction, with the assurance that a like situation had been met at their Sanctuary at the Lovell General Hospital, Fort Devens, "After the feeders were up, the birds began arriving."

The Welles Feeding Company gave a generous discount on the purchase of feeding stations. Mr. Carl W. Buchheister, Assistant Director of the National Audubon Society, sent many valuable gifts accompanied with helpful and delightful letters. He gave, through the Society, a quantity of literature on birds, a bird house and a feeder and over seven hundred bird cards to assist with the rehabilitation work among the patients. Nothing can exceed Mr. Buchheister's most recent contribution, a lecture by Dr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., at the Hospital in the early summer.



There is a park in connection with the Moore General Hospital, covered with trees and watered by small streams, but since the patients on crutches cannot get so far afield the Sanctuary work is being concentrated about the Hospital grounds, where the long buildings form oblong courts in which the berried shrubs will be massed and feeding stations centered. The most popular court with the patients is beside the Library, and it is here that a bird bath will be set in the spring, and it is hoped flowers can be added. The most decorative feeding station with part-glass shields, a gift of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is also in this yard. Perhaps at some future time a nature wild flower-shrub-tree collection can be planted to give greater interest to everybody.

The Stage is under construction for the Drama of Birds. Long ago ornithologists made Swannanoa famous with rare records. We throw down bird seed and challenge winged denizens and winged travelers to appear on the scene of the Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary. Every one in the North Carolina Bird Club is invited to help in making this Sanctuary a success.

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## Some Notes on Bird Nesting

D. L. WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

One of the most interesting and important parts of "birding" is the seeking of bird nests from early spring up into summer. It has always been to me a pleasant experience to find a bird's nest and observe the activities of the birds making the nest or taking care of the young. There is a need for more information on bird nesting as data on certain birds is very meager. Traveling over the State, I have observed nests of various species in various situations, and will mention some of the more outstanding ones here.

A few years ago I happened to be at Reynolda in their nursery in which was planted a half acre of English laurel, most of which was about 3 to 4 feet in height and planted rather close together so as to form quite a thicket. As I was walking through I began to notice many chipping sparrows flying from bush to bush and soon found nests in these shrubs. So I decided to go over the shrubs row by row and to make a count of the nests found. Carrying out a systematic search, 15 nests were found. All of these were of different ages, that is, some had one, some two, some three eggs, etc. Even there were young in some. Most of the nests were about 28 to 36 inches from the ground and composed of the usual material.

Chipping sparrow nests were mostly found in such shrubs as Irish juniper, arbor vitae, English laurel, thick vines, etc. Here are some of the places other chipping sparrow nests were found: (1) on July 30, 1943, at Montlawn, Raleigh, N. C., nest in cherry laurel shrub, one foot up from ground, three eggs, old bird flew off; (2) on August 4, 1943, Candler, N. C., nest with 3 eggs, 18 inches from ground in a pyramidal arbor vitae; (3) in July, 1942, Union Grove, N. C., nest with 4 eggs, 2 feet up from

ground in a tree rose bush, old bird flew off; (4) in July, 1942, Mount Airy, N. C., nest with 3 eggs, 3 feet up from ground, well concealed inside of an Irish juniper in garden (this nest was one of the best concealed nests I have ever found, and was found only after the old bird flew out); (5) in July, 1943, Pilot Mountain, N. C., nest with 3 eggs, 3 feet up from ground in Irish juniper shrub in old abandoned nursery and quite some distance from dwellings. Most of the nesting material of the chipping sparrow nests found consisted of rootlets, grasses, or very small stems. Sometimes the inner lining was of horse hair, but in a great many cases very small rootlets served just as well.

#### DOVE NESTING NOTES AND ANTICS:

I have observed doves nesting in many situations for a number of years, but last summer one of the most strange sights in nesting dove antics met my eyes at Shelby, N. C. On August 20 I was walking through the West View Nursery, which is located about 4 miles west of Shelby, where they had about a dozen long rows of sugar maple trees. As we walked down these rows of trees suddenly I heard a very loud fluttering among the branches just ahead of us (perhaps 25 feet distant), and saw a dove fluttering and apparently falling to the ground as if struck by a load of birdshot. Naturally I quickened my pace—but to my surprise as I advanced—the dove began fluttering along the ground and always about the same distance ahead—thus keeping me walking or rather running gradually away from the tree where I first saw the disturbance. She kept fluttering and making a noise as she went along away from the tree for perhaps 200 feet or more and then she finally took wing and went up into a large tall oak tree in the yard. I retraced my steps to the sugar maple tree and soon found the nest, which contained 2 young half-grown doves, and I readily saw why the mother dove was making such antics. The nest was about 6 feet up from the ground in the forks of the tree.

Other dove nests found were in the following situations: (1) last year (1942) a pair of doves nested in a pine tree just outside my kitchen window about 20 feet from the house and up perhaps 25 feet out on a horizontal limb 5-6 feet from the trunk; (2) on July 1, 1943, Pilot Mountain, N. C., nest with one egg, only 5 feet up in a small white pine tree, the nest was made of weeds, rootlets, twigs, etc., the old bird flew off as I approached the tree calling my attention to its location; (3) on August 26, 1943, Hickory, N. C., nest with 2 eggs in a small willow oak tree, 6 feet up from ground out on a horizontal limb, the old bird flew off calling my attention to its location.

Other cases of bird antics and their efforts to detract attention from their nest concealment were observed at other places in the following cases:

On June 25, 1943, at Pineola, N. C., I was in a large nursery where they grow many acres of native trees and shrubs, as rhododendron, kalmia, white pine and many others, and as I walked through a space where perhaps a dozen small white pine trees were scattered about among the kalmia,

I passed a small white pine tree and then a brown thrasher flew out and over perhaps 30 feet away and began to chatter and make a noise, and then keeping this up she flitted about over the white pine she was perched in, thus trying to draw my attention away from the tree just in front of me. Naturally, by her antics I decided the nest must be in the pine I was standing by, so parting the branches I began to look for the nest, but this caused the storm to break loose. The old bird dive-bombed me and made such a fuss that my attention was more on her than on the nest just seen with 3 young, not completely feathered birds in it. She was even brave enough to fly right on top of my hat. Here again is evidence of nesting bird antics in trying to conceal the nest location.

Another case of antics in nest concealment is the following of a Towhee nest found on June 25, 1943, at Pineola, N. C., near Grandfather Mountain. On this day I was walking through another large planting of azaleas, kalmia, and rhododendron and the mother Towhee flew out of a clump of kalmia and azaleas just 20 feet ahead of me. She flew up into some white pine trees along the border perhaps a hundred feet away and started making all kinds of noise and within a minute the male started in to increase the din. By this I suspected the nest being near where I was, but there were so many clumps of azaleas and kalmia around that it took me 15 or 20 minutes before I finally found the nest. It contained 3 eggs and was on the ground, snuggled under a clump of azaleas and kalmia about 2 feet in height. The nest consisted of grass and rootlets and was well concealed. I came back the next day and had about as hard time finding the location as I did that day, but the old birds went through the same antics.

Another case was of a mockingbird which built her nest in a pyracantha shrub about 5 feet up from the ground and which contained one almost grown baby bird. This nest was found July 14, 1943, at Charlotte, N. C. She made somewhat similar antics, but not so profusely. The type of thorny shrub may have been felt sufficient protection to intruders, which afterwards I believed myself.

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## 1944 Meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club

The spring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club will be held in Raleigh, Saturday, May 13, with the Raleigh Bird Club as host.

Registration will be in Hall I of the State Museum and the morning session will be held in the Board Room of the Agricultural Building at 10:00 a.m.

Luncheon will be at the S & W Cafeteria, in Room 3, at 1:00 p.m.

An afternoon session will be held in the Board Room at 3:00 p.m. The meeting has been planned for only one day, but a Sunday morning field trip will be taken by those who desire to participate.

MRS. ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON,  
*Secretary, N. C. Bird Club.*



## Questions and Answers

G. FREMONT SHEPHERD AND PHILLIPS RUSSELL

*What books are recommended for a young person in high school, just developing an interest in birds?*

The following is a brief and very selective list, with some annotations:

Allen, Arthur A. *The Book of Bird Life*. D. Van Nostrand Co., 1930, \$3.50. Designed for young students. About one-half of the book is devoted to how birds live. Chapters include history, classification, distribution, communities, migration, courtship, home life, adaptation, coloration and economics. The second half describes methods of studying birds, bird walks, calendars, banding, bird nests, attracting birds, observation blinds, bird photography, bird songs, and bird pets. The author, long a professor of ornithology at Cornell University, is one of America's best bird photographers. Technical subjects are discussed with simplicity and naturalness.

Chapman, Frank M. *Bird Life, A Guide to the Study of Our Common Birds*. Appleton-Century, 1924, \$5.00. The descriptions are clear, non-technical and in narrative form, intended for amateurs. Less comprehensive and less like a scientific manual than the author's "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America."

DuPuy, William Atherton. *Our Bird Friends and Foes*. Foreword by W. L. McAtee, introduction by Robert Ridgway, illustrated by G. M. Sutton. (Romance of Science Series, 1940, 80c.) The family life of birds with what appears to be a fair presentation of the question as to whether certain birds, such as the crow, do more harm than good. Carefully reviewed by government and museum specialists.

Edey, Maitland Armstrong. *American Song Birds*. Random House, 1940, \$1.00. Descriptions of over 100 of the more common American song-birds, accompanied by 28 plates in color by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

Hickey, Joseph L. *A Guide to Bird Watching; with Illustrations by Francis Lee Jacques, and Bird Tracks by Charles A. Urner*. Oxford, 1943, \$3.50. The underlying theme of the book is that it is possible for amateur naturalists to explore many aspects of bird life. Its simple, non-technical language will have a special appeal for beginners in bird study.

National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. *Book of Birds*, 2 vols., 1939, \$5.00. Recommended to all beginners who do not find colored plates in their regional books. Short biographies cover 633 species. The chief value of the book is its extensive series of color plates (mostly by Major Allen Brooks, the noted Canadian illustrator. The book is useful anywhere in the United States. It must be ordered direct from the Society.

Pearson, T. Gilbert, and C. S. and H. H. Brimley. *Birds of North Carolina*. State Museum, 1942, \$3.50. In this greatly revised edition, the distribution of 396 species and subspecies is given, along with a general statement of habits, vernacular names, and dates of occurrence. There are

a number of plates by Roger T. Peterson, similar to those in his "Field Guide to the Birds."

Peterson, Roger Tory. *A. Field Guide to the Birds, Giving Field Marks of All Species Found East of the Rockies*. Houghton, 1939, \$2.75. A handy, easy to use volume with good plates and descriptions of field markings.

Sawyer, Edmund Joseph. *Bird Houses, Baths and Feeding Stations; How to Make and Where to Place Them*. Cranbrook, 1940, 20c, pamphlet. Suggestions for making nesting boxes suitable for various kinds of birds, with some notes on the species and habits of the tenants.

United States, Superintendent of Documents. *Birds and Wild Animals*, price list No. 39 (free). Lists many valuable publications on birds that may be obtained at small cost from the Superintendent of Documents. Has several on attracting birds and on their relation to agriculture.

*How do you make a Feeding Tray? If it is put on a post near a window, should it have roof? If it is a flat slab, should it have a rim around the shelf? What sort of food do you put on it?*

Such a tray might be made of boards, tin or metal mounted on a post so as to be window high, or nailed to the window ledge with a support beneath. A roof will keep off rain and snow in winter. The shelf should have a rim to keep the food from being knocked or blown off. The food might be bread crumbs, suet or other fats, grain, chopped nuts, cornbread or chicken feed. And don't forget a shallow bowl of water for drinking and bathing.

*Has any other bird a similar note to the flying "tip" of a Purple Finch?*

Not that we know. C. S. Brimley also thinks not. But certain chirps of the Pine Siskin are rather like the Purple Finch's.

*How many clubs have monthly lists of what an average bird lover may expect to see near-by during each month of the year?*

A few may have the information, but not many, if any, have the lists. The best guide of the kind known to us is in the back of "Birds of North Carolina," as prepared by the Brimley brothers, but it is seasonal rather than monthly. All regional lists ought to be as complete as possible. Here is something for local bird clubs to work on.

## Notes on the Time of Incubation of Certain Birds

C. S. BRIMLEY

[NOTE: These are copied from nesting record cards sent in by members of the State Bird Club. It may be noted that records of the time spent in incubation, and the time the young birds remain in the nest, are quite scant, even for our common birds.—Ed.]

Turkey Vulture. Orange County, May 18, 1941, adult incubating two eggs; June 8, two white young; July 27, two young still in barn, white gone except from around head and tail. H. Thomas Odum.

Hawk, thought to be Red-shouldered. Granville County, eggs hatched between May 5 and 11, 1941; nest with two eggs found about three weeks earlier. L. Eaton, Oxford, N. C.

Bob-white. Orange County, August 7, 1941, 5 eggs; August 7-17, one egg laid each day about 10 a.m.; August 18, female incubating all day to September 9, but left nest for a short time about noon; eggs hatched about September 9 or 10. H. Thomas Odum, Chapel Hill, N. C.

Bob-white. Wake County, nest with 17 eggs found June 9, 1931; on June 25, all eggs had hatched and the young were gone. C. S. Brimley.

Red-bellied Woodpecker. Orange County, May 20, 1941, parents around hole; June 22, birds feeding noisy young. H. Thomas Odum, Chapel Hill.

Raven. Avery County, nest with four young in cavity in side of cliff on Grandfather Mountain, which contained 4 young, apparently about two weeks old; the young left the nest May 5. Elmer E. Brown, Davidson College, N. C.

Carolina Chickadee. Orange County, April 6, 1941, birds carrying nesting material; April 12, nest finished; April 19, five eggs; May 3, two young, three eggs; May 18, two young left nest, three unhatched eggs still left. H. Thomas Odum, Chapel Hill.

Carolina Chickadee. April 27, 1941, bird on five eggs; May 8, two young, three eggs; May 30, birds long flown. H. T. Odum.

White-breasted Nuthatch. March 21, 1941, discovered pair building May 14, four young noted in nest; May 28, young left nest. Mrs. O. F. Jensen, Chapel Hill.

Brown-headed Nuthatch. Orange County, April 13, bird discovered digging cavity; May 10, incubating four eggs; May 20, pair feeding four young (pin feathers not out); June 10, gone. H. T. Odum.

Brown Thrasher. Orange County, April 28, four young; May 8, birds have flown; May 22 (second brood), two eggs; June 1, still 2 eggs; June 8, one young. H. T. Odum.

Robin. Orange County, April 19, three eggs; April 29, three young; May 10, birds have flown. H. T. Odum.



Wood Thrush. Moore County, observed building May 31; female on nest June 2; three babies, June 22. Mrs. Wm. Kissinger, Southern Pines.

Cardinal. Moore County, observed building April 5; female on nest April 12; two babies April 26. Mrs. Wm. Kissinger.

Cardinal. Orange County, nest with three eggs; June 7, evacuated. H. T. Odum.

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## Geese on the Yadkin

HENRY MAGIE, Winston-Salem

Near us the muddy Yadkin flows lazily to the sea, through some six miles of river bottoms on either side, these being the farm lands of city men who find respite communing with old Mom Nature. Will Reynolds "Tanglewood," Clay Williams' "Wilthire Lodge," Ed Lasater's "Forrest Hill," and D. J. Lybrook's "Advance." No printed sanctuary sign marks this dot on the thousands of miles flyway of migrating water fowl, but our wise old geese are well versed in Dr. Rines' extra sensory perception, radar locating sense and miraculous vision.

Six years ago, during a heavy snowstorm, a flock of Canada Geese alighted on these shores, recognizing a natural refuge. This rare sight appealed to the hospitable landlords who spread many bushels of grain on the shore for the geese and yearly continued this catering to friends in need.

Clear weather, "Honk, honk, good-bye and thanks, we are off for the Argentine." Remembered were these handsome guests, delighted were the landlords the following fall to again welcome their visitors. Again ample grain, protection against marauders and notice to the public that this area was a private refuge for waterfowl. Since then every fall many thousands of Canada Geese alight and feed bountifully unmolested. Some winters, spending the entire season here, flying away north, fat, contented, appreciative. Limited hunting is permitted in open seasons. Last February these geese ate clean to the roots 62 acres of winter oats on their befriending hosts' farms.

Crossing our Yadkin, midway between these farms, is the State Highway bridge from which in the fall many motorists stop, watch the geese, wonder why, miss seeing the grain, unable to read the signs of unshaken hospitality.

Into this bird Eden enters the villain. Last December four low-flying planes, identity unknown, saw the geese, swooped low, circled again, scared away all the thousands of geese from two miles of water. Cautiously next day the scouts returned, increasing daily until today the usual number appear to be contentedly feeding and again ravaging the near-by grain, seeming to say, "You invited us, well do you ken what husky appetites we geese have, we know the open season dates and what use have you of all this green succulent grass in the dead of winter."

## In Memoriam

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### CHURCHILL BRAGAW

Most members of the North Carolina Bird Club who knew Churchill Bragaw appropriately associated him with the sturdy moss-hung oaks and the colonial hospitality of Orton Plantation by our lower Cape Fear River. Bird studies were part of his life.

Others knew him earlier as the vigorous and forthright son of Col. and Mrs. H. C. Bragaw, leader among the youth of his native Washington, N. C. He was one of the quartet of youngsters who became absorbingly interested in local natural history, collected rare specimens under hazardous conditions, and gave to their community the Bughouse Laboratory or Washington Field Museum.

Seeking further afield, Churchill entered State College, browsed in many sciences and specialized in forestry and botany. His sterling qualities brought him leadership among the students and keen admiration from the faculty. He won a grim fight with a desperate illness, and his energy and unselfishness won him high place in the College R. O. T. C.

When he took over the management of Orton Plantation in 1937 he met head-on the challenge and opportunity he wished, his initiative and energies were devoted to landscaping, forest management and plant breeding. His work in the last of these received national recognition. He was being recognized for his field studies of every form of our flora and fauna. Withal here was a southern gentleman who was doing work to justify the broad term "Naturalist" or "Natural Philosopher."

Came December 7, 1941, and the ogre of War. Churchill volunteered as Second Lieutenant of Infantry in 1942. 1943 found him overseas. In December war correspondents featured Lieutenant Henry C. Bragaw, and a Texas colleague, for their heroic work in the bloody battle of San Pietro, Italy, against the efficient German fighting machine. Both these men received battlefield citations and promotions to the rank of Captain. On Christmas Day, 1943, Churchill received a slight wound and was hospitalized. Anxious to share the work of his fellows, he rejoined them on January 4. Came more desperate fighting and he gave his life on January 22, 1944.

This passing of a wholesome forthright Soul tugs at our heartstrings, but there is the consolation that the world profited greatly in the all-too-brief career of Churchill Bragaw.

## Wings at Winghaven (Charlotte, N. C.)

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON

After seeing them all this winter, I am still wondering at the abundance of Pine Siskins, flocks of them in the garden every day still. Never in all my life have I seen so many. Two mornings in succession Eddie almost stepped on one before it flew up from the same spot, so the next morning I watched the spot before we walked by and there he was again feeding on the green chickweed seeds. The Cedar Waxwings have not been so abundant with me as last year, due, I suppose, to the failure of some of my berries from last year's late spring freezes. There have been a few Purple Finches off and on all winter and spring. Chipping Sparrows were here on February 17. The first White-eyed Vireos came in on March 27, and the first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 29th. The first Maryland Yellowthroat so far as I know on April 4, about the same time they usually come back, the occasional early ones pass on perhaps.

The first male Hummingbird came in today, April 12; also the first House Wren. The Wrens have come back several years on this date, though others report them earlier this year, on the 8th. The first Whippoorwills have been reported to me by two different people on the same day, the 8th, but last year and year before they came on the 2nd, I believe. Several pairs of Catbirds breed on the place and almost every year they came back on the 19th, but last year, one came in the 10th and this year on the 11th (yesterday). He came for the cheese when I threw it to him, and today his mate was here and she came, both oldtimers (as new birds are wary of things thrown in their direction), then they came immediately to my upstairs window sill for food. A male Scarlet Tanager on the 8th, but not in my garden. The male Hummingbird was one of our old customers, as he flew to each of us this morning and made himself as much at home as if he had never left us last September.

The Brown Thrashers began to build February 27, only one egg hatched and something happened to that, probably the exceptionally cold, rainy spell. I took the nest and three eggs in for record after they had begun to sit on their new eggs in a Chinese Flowering Crab, first found her sitting on the new eggs April 9. The first Robins began to build March 17th and now there are two nests where I can see them and several other pairs that I do not know where their nests are. I have only seen one Cardinal building though several pairs are constantly in the garden and they usually begin in March. The baby Carolina Wrens left the nest yesterday, the nest was in my neighbor's garage, and the parents brought them over the wall into my garden to raise.

I saw the first Chimney Swifts on the 8th. Two people have reported Phoebe's nests with four eggs each also on the 8th. Saw a female Hooded Warbler today, my earliest date for them. Doves have been very plentiful



all winter and we have counted as many as 39 and 40 around our pool at one time. They are still plentiful and I see from six to twelve at the pool every morning and many on the highways when I get out, I believe the later hunting season has been one large factor and then the scarcity of ammunition I suppose, but they are at times still in the nest in October in Mecklenburg County, and the later hunting season is certainly reasonable in their case.

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## Local Names of Birds Wanted

Mr. W. L. McAtee, Technical Adviser, Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, Chicago, Ill., writes *THE CHAT* as follows:

"Organization of the material collected during more than 30 years for a 'Dictionary of Vernacular Names of North American Birds' is in progress. In order that the work may be as complete as possible, the compiler appeals to you as Editor of a regional ornithological magazine to run a request for contributions of local or otherwise unusual vernacular names of birds. Your co-operation will be much appreciated."

(So, if any of our readers know of any unusual local names of birds, or even of usual ones other than the accepted "book" ones, they would do us a favor by sending them in to *THE CHAT*, whenever they know or hear of any. Many, of course, will be well known to Mr. McAtee, as he has been collecting these names for many years, but there is always the chance that something new may turn up.—ED.)

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## News and Notes

**HICKORY.** Under the sponsorship of the Hickory Bird Club, the Junior Bird Club was organized Thursday night, March 16, consisting of boys and girls of 12 to 15 years of age with the following boys and girls becoming members: Joanne Floyd, Helen Setzer, Alex Warlick, Jr., Bobbie Erwin, Robert Shores, Leslie Fox, Forney Hoke, Philys Matheson, Mary Sue Sigmon, Harvey Geitner, and Joe Davidson. Sallie Ann Sigmon attended the meeting as a guest.

The group elected Alex Warlick, Jr., president; Robert Shores, vice-president; and Philys Matheson, secretary-treasurer. It was agreed to meet on Wednesday evenings every two weeks.

As an entertainment feature, Dr. Althouse asked bird riddles. Robert Shores explained the requirements of the Boy Scouts to acquire a merit badge in bird study.

The organization meeting, which was held in the Brotherhood Room at the Reformed Church parsonage, was supervised by Dr. Harry Althouse, president, and Weston Clinard, vice-president, of the Hickory Bird Club.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, March 29th, at 7:00 o'clock in the Boy Scout room of the Corinth Reformed Church. Leslie Fox, Harvey Geitner, and Joanne Floyd were assigned the English Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow, respectively, to discuss at the meeting. Charts which have been ordered by the Hickory Bird Club from the National Audubon Society will be studied also.

J. W. CLINARD,  
*Vice-President, Hickory Bird Club.*

STATESVILLE: A nest of the American Goldfinch was found here on August 15, containing three eggs. It was in a small maple tree about 12 feet from the ground.

GRACE ANDERSON.

BOONE. The Boone Junior Bird Club met with Mrs. W. M. Burwell, February 19, at 4:00 p.m., for the purpose of reorganizing. Mrs. Burwell called the meeting to order on motion of Johnny Barnett, the Club voted to change its name to the Junior Nature Club, and the following officers were elected: President, Donael Warman; First Vice-President, Jo Ann Brinkley; Second Vice-President, Estelle Grubbs; Publicity, Isabel Eggers; Secretary, Reba Smith; Treasurer, Gordon Hartzog; Bird Calendar Committee, Johnny Barnett, Gordon Hartzog; Membership Chairman, Mary Smith; Program Committee, Mrs. W. G. Hartzog, Mrs. W. M. Burwell; Adviser, Mrs. W. M. Burwell; Mascot, Beth Eggers. The Club voted to meet twice a month, having one field trip and one program meeting in homes. A fine of ten cents was voted as penalty for not notifying the hostess when a member cannot be present. The members voted to have guest speakers and other interesting features throughout the year and the Club expects to become a member of the National Audubon Society. The members voted to take the names of birds by which to answer the roll. They were also very much interested in Mrs. Burwell's feeding tray. Donael Warman told of seeing 54 kinds of birds in January. The next meeting will be a field trip on March 4. Meeting place and time to be announced later.

REBA SMITH, *Secretary*.

NEW LONDON. I was watching a Louisiana Water Thrush the other day and noticed that he would catch an insect, dip it into the water and then eat it. I saw him do this several times as if he was washing it.

JOHN TROTT, JR., June 30, 1943.

CHARLOTTE. About a dozen cardinals make their home around our place; one of them got his leg broken recently; he would sit on the lawn most of the time, for it was difficult for him to balance himself on a perch or twig.

This afternoon when I fed them, he immediately flew into the feeding station; now, it is the habit of our cardinals to more or less take turns in the feeding station. One after another they swoop down onto the station, and the one in the station usually flies away when the next one swoops down onto its rim.

I watched them today for many minutes after feeding them, and while they swooped in as usual, not one of them bothered the crippled member of their flock. One fellow who must not have known of the accident to his fellow-member, swooped down to within a couple of feet of the feeding station, then realizing the condition of his friend, abruptly turned and fed on the ground until the crippled member voluntarily flew away from the station.

A beautiful example of tribal consideration!

CHARLES H. STONE.

A NOTE ON WILD PIGEONS. The last time that my mother, who is now 81 years old, saw North Carolina Wild Pigeons in great numbers, she tells me was late in the afternoon on a spring day in 1870. She was then living on the campus of Davidson College. The birds came in a great cloud from the south, making a noise "like the roar of an approaching train." There seemed to be millions of them. They settled in a grove of oaks breaking limbs with their

weight. Men and boys killed them with sticks, filling bags and baskets with them, or tying them in long strings. Dr. K. P. Battle made a record of the last time he saw Wild Pigeons in numbers at Chapel Hill. It was in the spring of 1878. The birds passed over the eastern edge of the village in a long, straggling cloud but did not stop to roost. PHILLIPS RUSSELL.

SNOW BUNTING. On February 3, 1940, a flock of over twenty were seen near Pinehurst on the Carthage Road, and on February 27, 1944, I saw one Snow Bunting at Southern Pines. MISS LOUISE M. HAYNES.

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## News of Clubs From Other States

GEORGIA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Continues to edit its bulletin, *The Oriole*, under its new Editor, J. Fred Denton, of Augusta. The Society plans a spring meeting in Atlanta, April 29-30, as guests of the Atlanta Bird Club, with Alex Sprunt as guest speaker. Dr. Eugene P. Odum, of Chapel Hill fame, recently published in *The Oriole* an interesting article on "Technics in Life History Study." Reprints of the paper, bound in an attractive cover, may be had for ten cents from the author—Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, Athens.

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY: No recent news of this group or its many active local clubs. Their *Migrant* was one of the best state bulletins and we hope it will continue to appear.

VIRGINIA SOCIETY OF ORNITHOLOGY: Has not missed an issue of *The Raven* under the able editorship of the Rev. J. J. Murray, of Lexington. Though the membership of the VSO is small, they do excellent work. Tentative plans are being made for an annual meeting this spring for the first time in two years.

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY: Added more than one thousand new members last year and expects to equal this during 1944 under a new Membership Chairman, who is a busy head of a large corporation. C. Russell Mason, 155 Newbury St., Boston, is full-time Secretary of the Society. A field trip is planned for January 23 at Newport, members being invited to come by train, bring their own lunch, and contribute a nominal sum for guides. Each member is asked to keep a checklist of all birds seen within the State during each year, sending in the list to headquarters each January, and from these is compiled a total list from the State. The report for 1940 had 26 lists of over 200 species with Ludlow Griscom leading with 293. The Society also maintains an educational program including: bi-weekly classes in nature lore in schools; training of youth leaders for summer camps; seven public lectures by noted authorities; illustrated talks to coast guardsmen; Junior Audubon Clubs; field trips; distribution of materials on birds and nature; furnishing to teachers and group leaders—without cost—six lectures on bird life.



# Officers of The North Carolina Bird Club

*President*—H. H. BRIMLEY, State Museum, Raleigh.

*Eastern Vice-President*—MISS CLARA HEARNE, Roanoke Rapids.

*Central Vice-President*—MRS. O. F. JENSEN, Chapel Hill.

*Western Vice-President*—HENRY MAGIE, Winston-Salem.

*Secretary*—MRS. ROXIE C. SIMPSON, State Museum, Raleigh.

*Treasurer*—MRS. MARGARET Y. WALL, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

*Executive Committeemen*—

MRS. EDWIN O. CLARKSON, 248 Ridgewood Ave., Charlotte.

A. D. SHAFTESBURY, Woman's College, U. N. C., Greensboro.

*Editor*—JOHN GREY, State College Station, Raleigh.

## Local Clubs and Their Officers

Arden, Rosscraggon Wood, Inc.: P—Major V. M. Shell, Arden; V-P—Mrs. H. B. Swope, Skyland; S-T—H. B. Swope, Skyland.

Blowing Rock, Blowing Rock Audubon Club.

Boone Bird Club: P—J. Hall Smith; V-P—Mrs. W. M. Burwell and Mr. Norton; S-T—Mrs. J. Hall Smith.

Chapel Hill Bird Club: P—Fremont Shepherd; V-P—Phillips Russell; S-T—Mrs. O. F. Jensen.

Charlotte, Mecklenburg Audubon Club: P—O. L. Barringer, Charlotte; V-P—W. T. Hopkins; S—Mrs. Richard Myers; T—Charles Walker, Jr.

Concord, Rex Brasher Bird Club.

Durham, Duke-Durham Bird Club: P—Miss Bertha Hopkins; S-T—Mrs. M. W. Johnson.

Greensboro, Piedmont Bird Club: P—Mrs. Chas. M. Smart; V-P—Mrs. Edith Settan and Mrs. George Perrett; Rec. S—Miss Etta Schiffman; Cor. S—Miss Evelyn Cook; T—J. E. Maxey.

Henderson Bird Club: P—Mrs. G. E. Rose; V-P—Mrs. E. B. Flanagan; S-T—W. B. Daniel.

Hickory Bird Club: P—Dr. H. A. Althouse; V-P—Weston Clinard; S-T—Mrs. George E. Bisanar.

Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Miss Helen Myers; V-P—Geo. F. Harper; S—Mrs. R. T. Greer.

Raleigh Bird Club: P—D. L. Wray; V-P—J. H. Slaughter; S—Harry T. Davis.

Salisbury Bird Club.

Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring.

Statesville Audubon Club: P—Mrs. Bonner Knox; V-P—Mrs. G. M. Tuten, Miss Rosamond Clark; S—Mrs. Earl Davis; T—Mrs. R. E. Stett.

Tryon Bird Club: P—G. H. Holmes; S-T—Katherine D. Hamilton.

Washington, Bughouse Laboratory: P—Sally Bogart; S T—Elizabeth Shelton; Director, Joe Biggs.

Winston-Salem Bird Club: P—James Stephenson; V-P—William H. Chance; S—Bill Anderson; Asst. S—Henry Magie.

# A MEMBERSHIP

*is always a*

## Welcome Gift

Share your joy in birds by giving a friend, or relative, a year's membership in the North Carolina Bird Club. THE CHAT will be a constant reminder of your thoughtfulness. We will mail a gift card with membership card to the recipient.



ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON, Secretary

STATE MUSEUM

RALEIGH, N. C.

# The Chat

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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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VOL. VIII

MAY, 1944

No. 3

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PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB  
At State College Station  
Raleigh, N. C.



# The Chat

## BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*,

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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### CONTENTS

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	PAGE
Spring Meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club.....	33
Some Unusual Bird Records for Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, N. C.....	35
Nesting of Nuthatches and Tits at Raleigh. <i>C. S. Brimley</i> .....	36
Change of Editors.....	39
North Carolina Academy of Science Essay Contest.....	40
Bird Behavior at the Nest. <i>John Trott, Jr.</i> .....	40
Some Notes on Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne," Part I. <i>H. H. Brimley</i> .....	43
Some Corrections.....	47
Lost Glasses .....	47
Notes and News.....	47
Officers of N. C. Bird Club.....	Inside Back Cover
Local Clubs and Officers.....	Inside Back Cover

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### THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro.

## Spring Meeting of The North Carolina Bird Club

The seventh annual spring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club was held in Raleigh, May 13, 1944, with about eighty members in attendance.

The morning session started at 10:15 a.m. in the Board Room of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The Secretary read a letter from H. H. Brimley, President, appointing Miss Clara Hearne, as acting president in his absence. D. L. Wray, president of the Raleigh Bird Club, then presented W. Kerr Scott, Commissioner of Agriculture, who delivered the address of welcome. The minutes of the last (October 20, 1942) meeting were then read and approved. A telegram from Henry Magie and W. M. Chance, of Winston-Salem, was then read.

Miss Hearne next appointed the following committees: Nominating—C. S. Brimley, Miss Claudia Hunter, Phillips Russell; Resolutions—Harry T. Davis, Miss Mariel Gary, A. D. Shaftesbury; Auditing—Edwin O. Clarkson, Robert P. Wolff.

The Secretary suggested that the local clubs help promote interest in the Ornithology Essay Contest, sponsored by the North Carolina Academy of Science.

The regular program followed. C. S. Brimley talked on "Reminiscences"—incidents occurring between 1885 and 1895, when he was engaged in collecting birds, their eggs and nests. Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Greene followed with an interesting talk on "Bird Migration." "The Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary," a colored movie loaned by the National Audubon Society, was next shown.

*Luncheon:* The luncheon meeting was held at the S & W Cafeteria with David L. Wray, President of the Raleigh Bird Club, presiding. He called on representatives of the various clubs to sketch the activities of the clubs.

*Hickory Bird Club:* J. Weston Clinard told of the organization of Junior Audubon Clubs, of the purchase of records of bird songs, and of colored pictures of birds to be used in the schools. At meetings of the club the members were assigned a certain bird to study and report upon. Also, they had discussed chapters in various books, including a life of Audubon, and now were on *The Human Side of Birds* by Dixon. They had recorded the nesting of the House Wren, which formerly had been recorded as nesting no farther west than Newton. To cap the report, Mr. Clinard entertained the guests with various bird calls which he imitated with remarkable skill.

*Mecklenburg Audubon Club:* Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson reported on the activities of this group, including work in the public schools, and a recent move to establish a sanctuary behind the Mint Museum, with a promise of more details to be announced later.

*Piedmont Bird Club:* Miss Etta Schiffman, Secretary, gave a full report of the many activities of this group, which includes a membership of 81, special study of the Carolina Chickadee, and regular field trips for those beginning the study of birds. Their chief work has been laying the foundation for establishing a bird sanctuary in Greensboro. This work included educating the children as to the value of such work and awarding certificates to those erecting feeding stations, baths, and nesting boxes by May 1, and a grand prize for the one with the most occupied boxes by May 15. This enlisted 527 children, who erected over 1,000 bird houses. In many ways it is evident that the people of Greensboro are becoming better informed about their birds and as a result are co-operating in every way.

*Henderson Bird Club:* Miss Hazel K. Rose, President, reported 33 members, which is an increase from last year. They participated in the Christmas Bird Count for the first time, have carried on an educational program in the schools, have worked regularly with the Boy Scouts in directing bird study. A field trip on April 29, 1944, was led by Roxie Collie Simpson, in which 82 species were seen, including the Greater Scaup Duck, the Blue-winged Warbler, and the Black-throated Warbler, all recorded for the first time from Henderson.

*Chapel Hill:* Phillips Russell spoke of the work of their group in interesting the school children in bird study, which had led to a special issue of the campus newspaper with the story of the girl who was raising a baby nuthatch on fried bacon administered with a medicine dropper. Many field trips had been sponsored, also various displays, as well as informal lectures.

*Raleigh Bird Club:* Roxie Collie Simpson, Secretary, spoke of the educational program that had been maintained throughout the year, including field trips each week with groups of Boy Scouts, many of whom have now become proficient bird students. Also many lectures in the schools, using the colored slides of birds, together with the records of bird songs. In addition to Alexander Sprunt the club had enjoyed Dr. Allen of Cornell in a public lecture. Other members of the club then spoke of the splendid work Mrs. Simpson has done in developing an excellent educational program, among the younger children in the schools, among the Scouts, and also of her work in various other clubs throughout the State.

Harry T. Davis reported that of the 5,000 copies of the *Birds of North Carolina* which were printed in 1942, only 1,000 have not yet been sold. This is truly a remarkable record for which the club gave him hearty applause for his work in sponsoring and selling the book.

The afternoon session met at 3:00 p.m. Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, made her report from December 1, 1943, to May 12, 1944, showing a balance of \$382.86. Edwin O. Clarkson of the Auditing Committee reported Mrs. Wall's books as being in splendid condition.

C. S. Brimley reported for the Nominating Committee that the committee unanimously recommended the election of the following—for President, Miss Clara Hearne, of Roanoke Rapids; First Vice-President, Mrs.



O. A. Jensen, of Chapel Hill; Second Vice-President, Henry Magie, of Winston-Salem; third Vice-President, Mrs. W. M. Burwell, Boone; Secretary, Miss Nancy Eliason, Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Greensboro; Editor of THE CHAT, Archie D. Shaftesbury, Greensboro; members at large of the Executive Committee, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Charlotte; Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Greene, Raleigh; and these were in due course unanimously elected to their respective offices.

A. D. Shaftesbury gave an informal report from the Resolutions Committee. The full text of the resolution is not, however, available at this present time, but they will be printed in full in a later issue.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. to partake of refreshments furnished by the Raleigh Bird Club.

At 7:00 a.m. next morning about twenty members met at Pullen Park to begin the field trip. An Orchard Oriole's nest was observed at the park, after which the group went to Lake Raleigh, where sixty-four kinds of birds were observed during the morning. With two botanists along, and the number and kinds of birds thinning out at the upper end of the lake, the attention of most of the group was turned to plants rather than birds. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON, *Secretary*.

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## Some Unusual Bird Records For Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, Hyde County, N. C.

By SAMUEL H. LAMB, *Refuge Manager*

During the months of December, 1943, through March, 1944, several bird occurrences have been recorded at Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge that are unusual.

On December 9, 1943, a freshly shot specimen of White-fronted goose, *Anser albifrons albifrons* (Scopoli), was examined that had been killed near the refuge boundary. Only seven previous occurrences are recorded in *Birds of North Carolina* and only one other is recorded to have been shot at the Refuge.

White Pelicans, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* (Gmelin), have been noted on several occasions during the winter. A flock of four was seen flying over a blind on Mattamuskeet Lake on December 11, 1943, by the writer and Oscar Chadwick, Game Protector. Later a flock of four was seen on the water close to the new road across the lake by the writer and Willie Gray Cahoon. This record was made on December 14 and is thought to be of the same four birds that were seen flying three days before. The birds, seen close at hand, were closely observed. Several other people mentioned seeing four strange white birds with long yellow bills at this same time. On February 13, 1944, the writer, in company with Dr. Ludlow Griscom and Mr. and Mrs. Cottrell, saw a flock of 10 birds unmistakably identified as white pelicans near Lake Landing on Mattamuskeet Lake.

The only previous records for white pelican in North Carolina are seven widely scattered summer records. No previous winter records are known. The only other record of this bird at Mattamuskeet Lake was made by Earle Greene, June 16, 1935.

On March 9, 1944, three male European Widgeons, *Mareca penelope* (Linnaeus), were observed at very close range alongside the new road across Mattamuskeet Lake by the writer and Willie Gray Cahoon. The birds were easily distinguished from the 300 or more Baldpates, rafted up in that vicinity, by their general greyish color, dark head and yellowish white head patch. The birds were seen at a range of about 25 yards sitting and flapping on the water, and also flying. They were seen several different times between the 9th and 14th of March. Only eight previous records are mentioned in *Birds of North Carolina*, and this is the first record for Mattamuskeet Lake.

A flock of 10 geese, consisting of seven Blue Geese, *Chen caerulescens* (Linnaeus), and three Snow Geese, has been seen several times, once on February 13, 1944, by the writer and Dr. Griscom, again by Dr. Griscom and Mr. and Mrs. Cottrell on the 14th, and later by others, including the writer and Willie Gray Cahoon, on March 3, 1944, at the Lake Landing section of Mattamuskeet Lake. Since the Greater Snow Goose is a regular winter resident of this area it was first assumed that the three white geese in the flock were Greater Snow Geese until Dr. Griscom pointed out that they must be Lesser Snow Geese, *Chen hyperborea hyperborea* (Pallas). Dr. Griscom saw the geese on the feeding ground at fairly close range and flying with the flock of Blues, as did the writer. It was noted that they did not appear larger than the Blues. The fact that the same combination of seven Blues and three Snows have been seen together several times strengthens the belief that the Snows are Lesser Snows and not Greater Snows. This is the third record of Lesser Snow Geese for North Carolina and the first record for Mattamuskeet Lake. Records for Blue Geese for the State are quite numerous, but they are still considered rare.

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## Nesting of the Nuthatches and Tits at Raleigh

C. S. BRIMLEY

These two families, the Tits, or Titmice (Paridae) and the Nuthatches (Sittidae) are closely related one to another, the chief differences being that the latter have short tails and rather long pointed wings, while the Tits have short, rounded wings and comparatively long tails, the bills of the Tits are short and stout, while those of the Nuthatches are longer and somewhat awl-shaped, both are efficient digging implements, that is, for digging in dead wood. In both families there is a small tuft of feather

projecting forward over the nostrils, in this particular showing a likeness to the crows and jays—to the latter the Tits seem to be closely related in ways if not in size.

Two species of the Tit family breed at Raleigh, the Carolina Chickadee and the Tufted Tit or Titmouse. It may be noted that the name Chickadee is purely an American term and that their representatives in England are known as Tits, Tomtits or Titmice, although I have never heard the latter term used there in the vernacular.

Two species of Nuthatch also breed here, the Brown-headed and the White-breasted. I have no personal experience with the nesting of the former, our only Raleigh record being of nest found by John Coffey on July 19 of last year, 30 feet up in a dead white oak, the nest containing young birds which left next day. This species seems to nest much higher up than the Brown-head and to usually use a natural cavity, not one made by the birds themselves.

The little Brown-head is a smaller bird with the top of the head brown, this extending down on the sides to the level of the eyes. In the good old days of yore, which in this case means 1880-1896, which days, by the way, were all right in some ways but nothing to brag about in others, we collected birds' eggs of many kinds, more especially those which would bring in a pecuniary compensation (bird and egg collectors simply swarmed in those days), and under this head to some extent came the Brown-headed Nuthatch. According to my records, we took seventeen sets of the eggs of this species. The nests in every case were in holes dug by the birds themselves in dead and partly decayed wood, sometimes in an old fencepost, more often in a dead stob or stump and most usually in a damp situation, possibly this was because in such a situation the stumps and stobs and dead trees were apt to be more softly decayed than those on the drier uplands. The hole would be just big enough for the bird to enter, and the inside of the stob would be dug out below the hole to a sufficient size to hold the nest, eggs and incubating parent, the depth inside the hole being from 6 to 9 inches.

This hollow would be lined with the wings of pine seeds, strips of the outer bark of birch or grapevine, the seed wings being always present. There were also other substances sometimes present, such as spider cocoons (Attids), cotton, and shreds of corn shucks, but the only invariable element was the pine seed wings, the next commonest was bark strips. As you all know, the Brown-heads have a habit of hammering away at pine cones, to get at the seeds, and if one carefully watches, the wings of the seeds can be seen fluttering slowly down through the air, pine seeds being winged like those of a maple but much smaller. But to come back to the nest, these materials lie loose in the nest, they are not woven or felted or in any way fastened together, although the body of the bird when on the nest must press them into a concave form.

In this rather scantily lined cavity, four to six eggs are laid, usually in April, but two nests were taken on March 24, 1890, by far the earliest



spring on record with regard both to the nesting dates of the early species and the arrivals of early migrants. Occasionally nests are found in May, but these are undoubtedly the results of the failure of a first try at house-keeping. The eggs are white, heavily spotted with reddish brown. The holes are dug at a height of from 18 inches to 12 feet from the ground, the average height being about six feet. The nest is six to nine inches below the entrance.

A pair will take about ten to sixteen days from beginning the lining of the hole to the laying of a complete set but no average can be established for the time of digging. One pair dug three weeks on one hole and then abandoned it, and started on another, 21 days later they had just started to lay. On the other hand, another pair dug a hole, lined the nest and laid three eggs in 13 days. All nests but one were in entirely dead stumps, stobs or fence posts, the single exception being in the dead top of a live sweetgum. Both sexes take part in the digging and lining. I cannot say as to incubation. They are very interesting little birds to watch.

Twenty-nine nests of the Carolina Chickadee were found, our only bird with a black crown, black throat and white cheeks. These were built in much the same situations as those of the Brown-head, that is, mostly in lowgrounds, and in holes in partly decayed stumps, stobs and fence posts, two were in the dead tops of live trees, one in a birch, the other in a maple. The height of the holes varied from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 12 feet, with an average of  $5\frac{1}{2}$ . Most were dug by the birds themselves and my notes imply that, only in two cases have I any doubts. I rather think that one of the holes in a fence post had been merely enlarged by the birds, and the same applies to the only one in an apple tree, but I would not like to be too sure about the latter. The Chickadees line the nest with a different class of substances from those the Brown-heads use. There is always some fur (rabbit or muskrat, or both), cat-tail fluff, lint cotton, hair, or similar fluffy material, besides these green moss seems to be invariably present, and usually bark strips, these by the aid of the fluffy material being felted or matted together so that the nest can be removed from the cavity as a complete but limp whole.

The eggs are 5-7 in number, white sprinkled with small spots of reddish brown, less heavily marked than those of the Brown-head. The nest varies somewhat in size, being sometimes comparatively thick and heavy and sometimes thin and light, two nests taken on the same day, April 27, 1889, differing in these respects.

When the parent bird leaves the nest, she often if not always covers the eggs.

A pair will take from 12 to 16 days to dig a hole, build the nest and lay a set of eggs, about nine days are taken in building and laying, the rest in digging. Amount of digging necessarily varies and quantity of material used in the nest also, but the birds do not appear to take more than 3 or 4 days to lay five to seven eggs.

Nesting material is gathered far from the nest, and the birds are hard to follow. Both sexes participate in the work, but I cannot say as to incubation. The species is single brooded, and late nests are probably due to failure in their first try at raising a family.

The Tufted Tit, our only small gray bird with a crest, comes last. Only seven nests of this species were found, and none so far as I know were in cavities of the birds' own making. The first nest found was on April 28, 1888, and was in the hollow base of a living dogwood. This lower portion was a mere shell, being open at top, with a large hole on one side close to the ground, the cavity had been filled up, apparently by the birds with dead leaves, green moss and earth for a distance of 18 inches above the ground, the entrance hole being about 6 inches higher. On top of this was a thick layer of white cat-fur and some snakeskin. The nest contained six eggs and the old bird was on the nest and allowed herself to be caught, after squirming about and hissing and apparently trying to break the eggs. The other nests ranged from 3 to 15 feet up, all in hollows, two in apple trees, one in hollow base of live pine, one in gate post, and two in dead willows. The composition of the nests varied but all included green moss, one had snakeskin (the owner allowed herself to be caught), and two had bark strips. This bird is said to usually cover the eggs when it leaves the nest. This species is single brooded like the Chickadee and Nuthatch, late nests being without doubt the result of the failure of a first attempt. The eggs are laid in late April or May, with an occasional belated nest in June.

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## Change of Editors

With this number the connection of the Rev. John H. Grey, Jr., with this publication as Editor comes to an end through his having been called to a larger pastorate with the Presbyterian Church at Charlottesville, Virginia. Ever since the North Carolina Bird Club was founded in March, 1937, he has faithfully, conscientiously, and intelligently edited this journal.

However, now he has been called to a larger field of usefulness, we can only rejoice in his promotion while regretting his loss to us.

After this issue, THE CHAT will be edited by Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and we bespeak for him the hearty support and help of all our members in making THE CHAT keep not only up to its present standard of excellence, but in making it even better than before.

C. S. BRIMLEY.

## North Carolina Academy of Science Essay Contest

*By* MRS. R. C. SIMPSON

John Trott, Jr., of New London, N. C., submitted the winning essay in the Ornithology Essay Contest of the N. C. Academy of Science this year. His essay was entitled "Bird Behavior at the Nest." The second prize went to Russell H. Johnson, Jr., of Conway, N. C., who wrote on "The Value of Bird Protection." This essay contest was established by Mrs. E. O. Clarkson and is administered by the N. C. Academy of Science.

This essay contest will be continued. Next year the first prize of \$20 offered by Mrs. E. O. Clarkson will again be offered, while Mr. Davis of the State Museum is offering copies of "Birds of North Carolina" as second and third prizes. It is suggested that teachers inform their students of the contest this spring so that those who might be interested in the contest next year could begin making observations and studies this summer. Suggestions for topics and rules governing the contest as well as a reprint of the winning essay this year can be obtained from the High School Committee of the N. C. Academy of Science, M. F. Buell, Chairman, State College, Raleigh, N. C.

(John's essay follows.)

### Bird Behavior at the Nest

*By* JOHN TROTT, JR.

Bird behavior at the nest is to me one of the most interesting phases of bird study. The anxiety of the parent bird is expressed any number of ways depending entirely on the species and position of the nest.

The brown thrasher has been noted and exclaimed over for his ferocity toward an intruder, but to me the mockingbird and blue-grey gnatcatcher attack with much more ferocity and bravery. The mockingbird will attack a human or a dog with equal fierceness. I once experimented with my dog, putting him on a stepladder near the nest. The mockingbirds, who by this time had gotten all the other mockingbirds in the vicinity, divided in equal forces, attacked my dog and me. The dog jumped from the stepladder and ran. Mockingbirds attack a person with the same fierceness when eggs are in the nest as when they have young. The mocker when flushed flies only a short distance, making a series of short, loud noises, whereas the brown thrasher scurries through the underbrush and starts its so-called "kissing," at least ten or fifteen feet from the nest.

The blue-grey gnatcatcher's nest I examined was built in an elm tree about thirty feet from the ground. Three fledglings were in it. There were three adult birds at the nest. When I climbed the tree a female darted around my head making a thin, wiry, excited squeak. She circled around my head getting closer and finally pecked me on the back of the neck. The female showed many more signs of bravery than the male. They kept up the incessant squeaking until I was safe on the ground below. There was a blacksnake on the ground underneath the tree. He was probably in quest of young birds.



I once found a young redstart, just out of the nest. The female was feeding the bird, the male being nowhere about. I moved up cautiously, and picked up the young on my finger. The female flew about me and darted very close, pecking at my hand, paying no heed whatsoever to my four companions. The male showed up after about five minutes. He seemed not to fear for the safety of his young, but darted back and forth from one tree to another about fifteen feet away, seeming to call the female away. The nest was finally located about thirty feet up in a maple tree, and we, knowing all the young were out, climbed up to get it. The male attacked the boy who had climbed the tree fiercely. By this time there had come about three more redstarts from the surrounding vicinity. The odds seemed to be against us, so we left.

We found the Maryland yellow-throat nest in a marsh beside a field. I knew there was a nest there for the male bird was chirping and hopping about with a worm in his mouth. He seemed much braver than the female, who sat quietly in a tree chirping now and then. He kept going down in a certain clump of grass. Of course we knew that the nest was there and proceeded to look for it. It wasn't there! He, finding out that we were falling for his trick, proceeded to lead us to another clump, the female joining him this time. The male finally got tired of holding the worm and trying to chirp excitedly at the same time, ate it. He then went to look for another. By the time he had returned we had found the nest in a clump of grass, nearly ten feet from the place the male had tried to lure us to. There were two eggs, a small young and a larger young. This latter I believed to be a young cowbird. I took some pictures, and upon returning three days later I found the nest completely empty, the work of some stray cat or blacksnake. The adult birds were nowhere to be seen.

Bluebirds come nearer to scaring a person to death than any other bird I know. When you examine a box they have nested in, both birds attack without any fear for their own safety. The experience I had was with a box that had been placed on a post in a fence. There were no trees except at about twenty feet on one side and fifty on the other. The female flew to one tree and the male to the other, they dived from both sides, making a noise that I presumed was made from snapping their bills together. There were young just out of the egg, about four. In about two weeks they were ready to leave, and as far as I know that brood was launched into the world successfully, with the exception of one which I think was eaten by our neighbor's cat. The pair built in the same box, laying two eggs and suddenly stopped laying. They weren't seen any place for a week. I then took the matter into my own hands by taking the eggs and nest. I thought maybe something had disturbed the nest and that this was the reason they had abandoned it. The very next day after I took the nest and eggs they resumed housekeeping, they laid four eggs and successfully hatched all four.

Another one of my experiences with the bluebird was when the nest was built in a hollow limb of a peach tree. It was probably the abandoned nest of a hairy woodpecker. The tree was in a grove on a small hill. I saw the nest in the hollow limb and finding I couldn't see in it, I proceeded to tear a very small part away from the hole, I then reached in the hole and felt feathers. My first thought was that the female bird had died on the nest. I sat down under the tree to write in my notebook. With a soft "trually," the female flew from the nest. She offered no protest when we looked in to see what she was protecting so bravely, three fledglings, ready any time to leave the nest.

The blue grosbeak is a very interesting bird in its actions at the nest. They are very easy to flush. The male is very shy and makes no move to protect his family, for that matter, neither does the female; she merely perches on a bush about ten or fifteen feet away and makes a noise like a spoon hitting on the back of a pan. They always build near an old road. One I found was about five feet up in a wild plum tree, where there were three young. I disturbed the female while she was feeding them. This was the middle of June. I returned in two days. The young were gone. The blue grosbeaks immediately rebuilt at thirty or forty feet away.

Catbirds use their mewling cry to announce an intruder in the vicinity of their nest. Both the male and female enter into continuous crying. They also call in every other catbird in the vicinity. I once had an experience with a catbird nest built in an apple tree about twenty feet from the ground. There were eggs in the nest, but the male and female still showed much concern. They made their mewling cry for about fifteen minutes. They called in a robin, a cardinal and a hummingbird, the robin and cardinal left after investigating me, but the hummingbird continued to dart at me, angrily squeaking. Her mate then came, joined by a number of other birds. I then felt it was time for me to make my departure.

I once stumbled over a field sparrow nest built on the ground at the foot of a young pine. There were four fledglings, ready to leave. When I disturbed them they immediately fluttered in all directions. I picked them up and put them back in the nest, but this did no good, for they immediately scrambled out again. The female arrived at this time, hopping about and chirping excitedly. The male sat in a small tree fifteen feet away and watched all this. I picked up one of the small birds. He made no attempt to get away, but sat contentedly on my hand. The female flew up and chirped and hopped around until she got the attention of her young. He followed her, and she led him to a small tree. She repeated this with her other three birds. She then proceeded to find something to eat for her birds. The male joined her and started singing as we left.

In my experience with the chipping sparrow I find that if they are disturbed while they are brooding the eggs, they will quietly scurry down through the underbrush without making any protest to the disturbance.

The actions of a wood thrush are interesting to observe. When flushed from the nest, they fly for about fifteen feet and quietly drop to the ground.

I have never seen the males near the nest. His "bell" like song could be heard early in the morning in the vicinity of the nest. When the wood thrush sees that her eggs or young are in danger, she will fly from one tree to another making an excited call.

The cardinal's excited chirp is a sure sign of a nest. The male shows the same amount of anxiety as the female. When the nest is disturbed or an intruder is seen by the birds close to their nest, they call in every other cardinal in the surrounding territory, and all these join in making a series of the well known cardinal alarm calls, they flit around, jerking their tails excitedly. When the female is building, the male sits in a near-by tree and serenades his mate with all his might. In watching a female cardinal build the nest I found that she gets her material from at least twenty yards from the site of the nest.

When a chat sees an intruder he makes a noise like a cat which has had his tail stepped on. These birds build nests in the most impossible places. It is usually in the midst of a brier patch. The males seem to do most of their so-called "singing" near the nest.

The Carolina wren raises no protest in the form of action. The Carolina wren nest that I had my dealings with was built in a tin can in a barn. The male usually perched in a tree just outside the barn bubbling his happiness at all times of the day. The female, when flushed from the nest, merely slipped out of the barn through a hole, fussing continuously. Carolina wrens make it their business to fuss at an intruder in other birds' nests also. In the south you can hear their fussy "chit, chit" almost any time of the day.

The mourning dove makes no effort at all to protect his flimsy nest. When disturbed they fly a far distance and sit dreamily watching the stranger until he leaves.

It can be found from the above examples that bird behavior at the nest is one of the most interesting phases of bird study.

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## Some Notes on Gilbert White's Natural History of Selborne

By H. H. BRIMLEY

This book, long regarded as a classic, was first published in 1788, a hundred and fifty-six years ago. A reprint of the work, published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, in 1901, is the basis of this paper.

This would seem to be the first popular book treating the occurrences and behavior of the local birds in a restricted locality. Scientific names are given for most of the species, based largely on the then-recent work of the Swedish naturalist, Linnaeus, in his "Systema Naturae," in which, I believe, he originated the present method of zoological binomial classifi-



cation. This work of Linnaeus was written in Latin, according to my understanding. In some instances, however, White adopts the nomenclature of another naturalist of about his day and time, named Ray, who also wrote in Latin.

Gilbert White was a highly educated man, chiefly, of course, in the classics, holding degrees from Oxford University. He was born on July 18, 1720, at Selborne, and died June 26, 1793. Following his preparatory schooling and his graduation at Oxford, he became a Fellow of Oriel College and one of the Senior Proctors of the University. Later, he became the pastor of the little village in which he was born, the name of which he has handed down to posterity.

In quoting passages from the book, I have endeavored to conform strictly with the original punctuation, some of which is well worth recording, and I have quoted quite freely in places in an endeavor to impress on the reader the individuality of the author.

Little seems to be known of Gilbert White as a man beyond what can be gathered from his writings. But perhaps the following, selected from the introductory to the edition I have, may afford the reader a fairly good insight into his individuality.

"One pictures him in imagination, with his pale malacca walking stick and knee-breeches, sauntering through the winding path to Long Lythe, studying the cause of the smoky atmosphere; or treading the sheep-walks in quest of some new butterfly, pausing perhaps to hold communion with a favorite echo which returns him his quotations from Ovid, Virgil, or Lucretius. Or, maybe aglow, with excitement, he is contemplating the stately march of that *rara avis*, the hoopoe, feeding near his garden; or, with ear alert, he is listening to the mysterious humming as of bees in the air, which follows him from the Money Dells to his garden gate, though not an insect is to be seen. Perchance from his eyre, beneath the beeches of the Hanger (name for a wood), he is watching a file of rooks wending their way to the Tisted Woods; or, threading a rocky lane, he stops to admire the lovely fronds of the hart's-tongue fern. Or, amid the gloaming of a bland mid-summer's evening, one fancies him strolling to the Plestor where he may trace the graceful wheels of the churn-owl, hawking round the giant oak in pursuit of fern-chafers, yet ever most intent on observing the migrants, and in following swift and swallow as they

'in rapid, giddy ring  
Dash round the steeple, unsubdued of wing.'

"The grasshopper lark sounds his sibilous whisper, and the smallest willow-wren his shivering noise in the tops of the tall woods, and he is there to hear; the lesser white-throat comes to probe the nectaries of his crown-imperials, and he is present to perceive. He turns over on his pillow at night to mark the stone-curlews uttering their short, quick note while passing overhead, a watchword that they do not stray and lose their companions. He knows the habits and food of every feathered inhabitant of

his parish, from the bustard, the largest British land fowl, to the golden-crested-wren, the smallest of the British avifauna. The sight or call of some strange visitant, like the stilted-plover, was to him as the draught of some marvelous vintage, or the ecstasy of the collector who discovers a hidden Raphael or Rembrandt. He had, moreover, a retinue of boys—of whom there were a goodly number in the village—at his constant beck and call, to climb trees for him in search of the birds' nests and eggs he coveted, as well as to destroy the wasps' nests, the denizens of which devoured the products of his garden."

Those old country parsons evidently had a good deal of spare time on their hands, frequently used in the study of their local fauna and flora, as the numerous writings by such on the natural history of their immediate surroundings will attest.

White's method of recording his efforts are in the form of letters to friends of similar tastes and, in consequence, his book contains little of continuity. It is in no sense a text-book. Many of his quotations from other writers are in Latin, which, for various reasons, will not be used by this writer.

In describing the geography and the various surface characteristics of the territory in his immediate vicinity, he rather frequently mentions Wolmer Forest, which he describes as follows: "a wild region, two and a half miles wide by seven miles in length—abounding with bogs, fern and heath . . . the retreat of duck and teal, dabchicks and water-hens, snipe, pheasant and foxes . . . without a standing tree on its whole extent, but studded with extensive marshes and meres." From our point of view, not much of a forest, but it no doubt had a tree on it when first named.

I may state here that White's investigations covered a period of about forty years, and for those who would like to place it on the map, I may say that Selborne can be found on the National Geographic Magazine map of the British Isles. It is situated about fifty miles southwest of London, twenty-five miles northeast of Southampton, and about twenty miles north of Portsmouth. And it is only about eighty miles S.S.W. of my boyhood home near Bedford, though I now fail to remember by name many of the species to which White calls attention.

From the introduction to the 1901 edition, I quote the following: "It has long been enshrined as a classic on the library shelves; and, while its subtle attraction has been found difficult to analyze, it has nevertheless come to be recognized as one of the immortal books, having nature as its theme—one of those volumes with which the discerning reader can ill afford to be entirely unfamiliar."

Following, I am making some brief comparisons between some of the species mentioned by White with their nearest affiliates on this side of the Atlantic:

Take his churn-owl, also spoken of as fern-owl, goatsucker, nightjar and evenjar. We have three species of this group in North Carolina and,

judging from his description of the habits of their European representative, his fern-owl would seem to more nearly approach our whip-poor-will than either the nighthawk or chuck-wills-widow.

The European swifts have all four toes pointing forward, and do not use chimneys as nesting sites, while our species has three front toes and one rear toe, as with most birds, with the exception of the woodpecker group; and nest in chimneys almost exclusively. So far as I know, this toe arrangement of the European swift is confined to that one genus.

White's cuckoo is a true parasite, never building a nest of its own, just as bad an actor as the American cowbird, in fact.

The European kingfisher is only about one-third the size of our belted kingfisher (comparative lengths of the two species,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches), but it is one of the most brilliantly plumaged birds found in the British Isles. The nesting and general habits of the two are quite similar.

The fieldfare, or felt, is a thrush, of about the same size and habits as our robin, but with no red on the breast. It is a winter visitor, only, in England. As a boy, I collected many of these birds for food purposes, and who remembers the time—not very many years ago—when “robin pie” was considered a dainty dish by many North Carolinians!

The English robin, or red-breast, reminds me somewhat of our bluebird in habits, size and shape, though differing widely in coloration. The golden-crested-wren is closely allied to golden-crowned kinglet. The English sparrow-hawk is almost a dead-ringer for our sharp-shinned hawk, while the old-world kestrel is a small falcon very similar to our sparrow hawk. These were the only two species of hawks observed in our part of England.

The European turtle-dove is not unlike our mourning dove in its size and general habits. The land-rail, or corn-crake, is a little larger than our sora, but it inhabits the dry uplands as well as the wet meadows; and the moorhen, or water-hen, is virtually the same bird as our Florida gallinule.

The stone-curlew is neither a curlew nor any near relative of the curlews. It is not even a shorebird, but an inhabitant of the bare, rocky uplands and open fields. Perhaps its nearest relatives are the bustards, a group of birds not represented in North America. Books on British birds place it in a family to itself. It is a good-sized bird, possibly somewhat larger than our ruffed grouse.

The British yellowhammer is a finch, the American bird of the same name being a woodpecker (flicker). The white-owl, frequently mentioned by White, comes very close to our barn owl. The overseas form, as I have frequently seen it flitting through the dusk, has all the appearance of a white bird. The habits of the two correspond closely. The peregrine falcon and our duck hawk have only sub-specific differences.

White's dabchick, or least grebe, seems to more closely approach our pied-billed grebe than any other of our divers. It is somewhat smaller, however, than our little didapper.

The British jackdaw is a smaller species of the crow family, generally speaking, blackish in appearance, with some brownish or grayish around



the head, neck and underparts, and the magpie—a similar bird being found in the western states—also belongs along with the crows and jays. A black and white bird, wherever found. The rook corresponds with our common crow in color, size, and somewhat in habits, though the former gathers in large colonies at nesting time. Hence, the word “rookery,” often erroneously used in connection with colonies of other birds that gather in numbers during the reproduction period.

The English jay has blue wings; otherwise, rather dull colored, but of similar habits to our blue jay. The ravens of the two sides of the ocean seem to be very much alike in both appearance and habits.

The relationship between White's *hirundines* and our swallows and martins seem to be about as follows: His sand-martin is our bank swallow; the barn-swallow only subspecifically different from our bird of the same name; and his house-martin not far removed from our tree swallow in appearance but has a white rump. Our purple martin has no close relative in the British avifauna.

The bird that he identifies as a “German silk-tail (*garrulus bohemicus*)” is the Bohemian waxwing, a near relative of our cedar waxwing.

(To be continued)

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## Some Corrections

In the article on Incubation of Certain Birds on page 26 of the March CHAT, two dates were inadvertently omitted. The first is that of the raven's nest found by Dr. Brown on Grandfather Mountain, the date of finding the nest was April 7, 1940.

The other case was the last one in the article, Tom Odum found the nest on May 18, 1941.

There are other cases in which the year was omitted but these were all in 1941.

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## Lost Glasses

A pair of spectacles was left in the Agricultural Building by someone who attended the meeting of the State Bird Club on May 13. The owner can get them on application to Mr. Harry T. Davis at the State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.

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## Notes and News

SOUTHPORT: The egrets arrived on the fifth of March, 50 in number. The Snowys, Bitterns, Louisianas and Black-crowned Night Herons came in on the 25th. I saw 3 egret's eggs on the 15th, and on the 11th of April I counted 15 young birds (egrets), the most of which were two or three days old.

DOUGLAS JONES.

CAPE MAY WARBLERS AT NEW LONDON: A very large number of birds of this species passed through here between April 22 and May 3, 1944.

JOHN TROTT, JR.

SPARTANBURG, S. C.: Have several bird items that interest me this time. Back in 1941 Miss Carlisle saw a Black and White Warbler on Converse College campus through November, and I had one that year as late as December 23. She reports seeing one in that location March 2 of this year. We were out March 26, clear, warm 76°, and saw White-eyed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (one had already been noted on the 20th), and Maryland Yellowthroats in numbers and singing freely (Miss Carlisle had already seen the last the day before), a week to ten days early, but since then it has been rainy and cool to cold. Chimney Swifts (April 7) are a week later than last year.

GABRIEL CANNON.

WILMINGTON: The first Swifts so far noted in this State this year, seen on March 29.

D. L. WRAY.

RALEIGH: Some firsts for 1944: Chipping Sparrow, February 17; Yellow-throated Warbler, March 15; Rough-wing Swallow, 16th (Grey); Maryland Yellowthroat, 24th; Black and White Warbler, 27th; White-eyed Vireo, 28th; Blue-headed Vireo, 31st; Swift (Ernest Mitchell) and Osprey, April 2; Ovenbird and Hooded Warbler, 3rd; Palm Warbler, 4th; Wood Thrush and Barn Swallow, 5th; Spotted Sandpiper, 9th; Parula Warbler, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Tree Swallow, on 10th.

ROXIE C. SIMPSON, JOHN COFFEY, JR., and NORMAN McCULLOCH.

WARBLERS AT SKYLAND, N. C.: The following species were seen on my place in Rosseraggon, or in the ravine in Rosseraggon Wood a few hundred yards away, between April 20 and May 12, 1944. Black and White Warbler, many, nesting here; Hooded, nesting here; Ovenbird, nesting; Myrtle, too many; Parula, lots of them; Cape May, unusually large numbers, I would guess hundreds—came early and are still here; Blackpoll, dozens; Redstart, many; Blackburnian, one; Maryland Yellowthroat, always plentiful, but saw only one up in the wood; Chestnut-sided, about six or eight; Black-throated Green, two; Prairie, heard one; Canadian, one; Chat, one seen, several heard; Magnolia, two—I usually see on spring migration, but did not this year; Black-throated Blue, Worm-eating, Kentucky, Golden-winged. I have seen in the past, once, Cairns?, Cerulean; not infrequently, Yellow-throated, Wilson's Black-cap; Pine and Yellow Warbler.

MISS SUSAN SHEPHERD.

WARBLERS AT ARDEN: May 6 and 7, 1944, were good warbler days, and the following species were seen. Black and White, 4; Worm-eating, 2; Parula, 2; Magnolia, 2; Myrtle, many; Cape May, 7; Chestnut-sided, 2; Blackpoll, 2; Yellow-throated, one; Blackburnian, 2; Pine, 6; Prairie, 3; Louisiana Water Thrush, 1; Kentucky, 1; Hooded, 6; Redstart, 10. Not as many as last year.

MRS. D. W. GRINNELL.

BREEDING RANGE OF BLUE-HEADED VIREO IN NORTH CAROLINA: In the *Oriole* for March-June, 1943, occurs this statement by Dr. Eugene P. Odum, on page 7: "The Solitary Vireo in North Carolina *now* nests all the way across the piedmont to the edge of the coastal plain" (italics mine). This seems to imply a recent extension of range, whereas the first nest was found at Raleigh on April 27, 1891, and a single bird taken near Wendell, 15 miles further east on July 1, 1908, and no further extension of range has been noted since.

C. S. BRIMLEY.

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ROXIE COLLIE SIMPSON, Secretary

STATE MUSEUM

RALEIGH, N. C.

# The Chat

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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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# The Chat

## BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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## CONTENTS

	PAGE
The President's Message .....	49
News of the Local Clubs .....	50
Report of the Resolutions Committee .....	52
Two More Municipal Bird Sanctuaries .....	52
T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club and Sanctuary .....	53
U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital Wild Bird Sanctuary. <i>Captain</i> <i>W. A. Angwin</i> .....	53
List of Birds of Mecklenburg County .....	55
Some Notes on Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne." Part II. <i>H. H. Brimley</i> .....	55
You Can Help the Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary. <i>Grace</i> <i>Anderson</i> .....	59
Poisonous Snakes of the Eastern United States .....	59
Field Notes and News .....	60
With the Editor .....	64
New Members .....	Inside Back Cover
Officers of the N. C. Bird Club .....	Outside Back Cover
Local Clubs and Officers .....	Outside Back Cover

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## THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.



## The President's Message



MISS CLARA HEARNE

The North Carolina Bird Club has passed its seventh birthday and is now a well established organization. The success and strength of the Club is due to efficient leadership, enthusiastic members and a splendid magazine.

I deeply appreciate the honor which has been conferred upon me by such an organization. When I realize the quality of work that has been done and the fine personalities that have given real character to the Club my feeling of incompetence almost overwhelms me. However, I shall give my best effort. The inspiration which comes from the former president, Mr. H. H. Brimley, and words of encouragement from my friends will be a source of strength during the year.

In such an organization as ours it is the personal interest and effort of every member that keep it alive. Today, when every one has many demands on his time, I appeal to you individually to double your effort that we may go forward and not be content to just hold our own for the duration. This is the time when we should solicit the co-operation of all North Carolinians in conserving the birds of the State, and not only the birds, but all its natural resources.

As I write this a Cardinal is calling from the Arbor Vitae and a Carolina Wren is singing merrily from the grape arbor. It is not within my power to appeal to you through song, but the birds may be heard by all who have an interest in and appreciation for one of the loveliest gifts of nature.

Many of our young men and women will soon be returning from the terrible experiences of war and will need rebuilding in soul as well as body. Nothing is so healing as Nature, particularly music in Nature, so let's be prepared as a group to make some contribution toward their readjustment.

There are certain objectives which I should like for every member to keep in mind and help to attain. First, a larger membership. Recommend a new member to Mrs. Wall, our treasurer. Second, more educational literature which will appeal to youth. It is this group that must be educated to conserve our natural resources. Send your questions to Dr. Phillips Rus-

sell. Third, increase the number of pages in *The Chat*. There is no lack of material, but to do this we need a larger bank balance. Fourth, promote the work of the sanctuary at Moore General Hospital. Miss Grace Anderson is chairman of Sanctuaries and has already begun this work. I should like to know that all local clubs will make some contribution to this particular sanctuary as this hospital is one in the State for rehabilitation of our service men.

Suggestions from members will be appreciated. Let's make them, consider them, and adopt the ones which seem best. In this spirit we shall go forward. This is a challenge to every member. Will you accept it?

CLARA HEARNE, Roanoke Rapids.

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## News of the Local Clubs

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: Our four bird sanctuaries are our main interest, and all are progressing. 1. Reynolda Sanctuary, with an area of 1,100 acres, is a wonderful refuge with all natural conditions, food, shelter, and protection, and is under the personal interest of the owner, Mrs. Charles Babcock, who was formerly Mary Reynolds. 2. Forsyth County Tubercular Sanatorium Sanctuary, area 700 acres, is developing. No new species have been noted. English sparrows are fewer. Last winter eight pairs of Cardinals were fed at feeders at the cottage of the Superintendent, Dr. P. A. Yoder. Three pairs nested at his porch last spring. A male cardinal which dashed repeatedly at his reflection in the window glass was finally discouraged by a paper screen pasted on the outside of the glass. (Today, August 23, Dr. Yoder is conferring here with the visiting National Foundation Polio specialists and discussing house cats as potential carriers of polio.) 3. Our Country Club Sanctuary is a treasure, skilfully managed by Robert N. White—"Bob White" to me. How's that for the name of a bird man? Bob reports noticeable increase in the bird population, and full co-operation of the 500 members and green keepers and the adjoining neighbors. 4. Our Methodist Children's Home Sanctuary is waiting the plan of the North Carolina Bird Club covering education in the Home school of 400 kiddies. That's a big program for any club and we are going to tackle it.

Our Secretary, Bill Anderson, is now flying a bomber "over there." Our President, Jim Stephenson makes regularly weekly field trips, alone or with Boy Scouts. He reports no new species, but decidedly more Bob White due to reduced hunting last fall. Jim has a young caged Broad Winged Hawk that he is studying. Many phone calls and other inquiries on "what bird is this," indicate a noticeable increase in adult interest in bird study.

At present there are no further developments to report in our project for the 1,200 acre sanctuary on the watershed of the City Water Works. We believe our main objective must be a concentrated effort for guided organized plan of study of our birds, in all our 16 public schools. We like the successful Greensboro plan.

Winston-Salem, N. C., August 23.

HENRY MAGIE, *Acting Secretary*.

LENOIR AUDUBON CLUB: On Friday evening, July 28th, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., lectured and showed three rolls of film, some in slow motion, of birds and other wild life in North America. During the showing of the films the manipulations of the wings of the birds in flight were shown and explained, as well as the habits of salmon, deer, moose, and other wild life of the American forests. Mr. Sprunt was introduced by the local Bird Club president, Fred H. May.

Mr. Sprunt prefaced the showing of the films by declaring that the wildlife of this country is as essential to the war effort as any of the planes, ships, or guns being produced in our war plants, since the insect population would soon take the world if not kept in check by the feathered friends of man and agriculture. Having an excellent command of English, Mr. Sprunt was at no loss to explain the pictures being shown, or to bring to the attentive audience the value of birds and wildlife in the world. The Lenoir Audubon Club felt very fortunate in securing Mr. Sprunt for this lecture, as it had made three other attempts to present him to a Lenoir audience, and it goes without saying that his return will be welcomed by a larger audience.

Six new members have been enrolled in the Club. MAY PUETT, *Secretary*.  
Lenoir, N. C., August 1.

**HICKORY BIRD CLUB:** Food will actually win the war and write the peace, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., South Carolina Naturalist, declared in an address here Thursday night, July 27th. The author of "Dwellers in the Silences" and other out-of-door articles illustrated his lecture with some exceptionally good colored moving pictures showing how the Egrets of the South were saved from extinction through conservation methods. Mr. Sprunt pointed out that birds play a far more vital role in the economy of man's existence than most of us realize. Reminding his Hickory audience that America made the serious mistake of not awakening to the necessity of taking steps to safeguard its wildlife until recent years, the speaker appealed to the public to continue and expand the conservation measures which now are proving successful in an endeavor to make amends for the damage done to wildlife through ignorance and carelessness.

The meeting was held in the First Presbyterian Church, and despite the polio epidemic which is keeping so many people away from any kind of gatherings, about a hundred people were present. We regretted very much the fact that the children were unable to attend, since one of the Club's main ideas in engaging Mr. Sprunt was the benefit of the children.

J. Weston Clinard, Vice-President of the Hickory Bird Club, presided in the absence of the Club President, Dr. Harry D. Althouse. Dr. John R. Hay, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and a kinsman of Mr. Sprunt, introduced the distinguished guest speaker. J. WESTON CLINARD, *Vice-President*.

**PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB:** Two meetings have been held in Greensboro since the annual meeting of the North Carolina State Bird Club on May 13th and 14th. The first of these was on May 18th, when full and enthusiastic reports of the activities at the State meeting were made by the various members who had attended. After the business meeting, a most interesting talk on the songs of birds and characteristic flights of various birds was given by Dr. Philip Furnas of Guilford College. Dr. Furnas based his talk on his own observations, and illustrated it with whistled calls of many of the birds.

A meeting was held on the evening of June 8th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Perrett. About fifty members and a few guests gathered for a picnic supper in the Perrett's delightful yard, and after supper and a business meeting, they enjoyed a program of clever games under the direction of Raymond Kaighn, a past master at the art of getting everyone to join in the fun. At this meeting definite plans were made to enlist the aid of the local Garden Clubs, the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Parent-Teacher, and other civic organizations, in making Greensboro and the Greensboro Country Park each a bird sanctuary by early fall. Field trips for both juniors and adults were called off for the rest of the summer, but the members are looking forward to September activities. ETTA SCHIFFMAN, *Recording Secretary*.  
Greensboro, N. C., August 26.



## Report of the Resolutions Committee

We regret that illness prevented the attendance of our president, H. H. Brimley, at most of the sessions of the this meeting, and we wish to extend to him our sincere appreciation not only for his leadership during these trying times but also for what he has meant to the N. C. Bird Club and to the entire State, and we certainly wish the continuance of his valuable counsel for many years.

To Dr. John Grey, charter member and an organizer of the N. C. Bird Club and Editor of *The Chat* since its beginning, we feel that the completed volumes of *The Chat* stand as a monument to his splendid work which will long endure. Losing him to our sister state Virginia leaves a place that will not be filled.

To Ralph Brimley, Treasurer of the N. C. Bird Club from 1942 until his induction into the United States Army last fall, we wish to express our thanks for the splendid way in which he handled this important part of the work of the Club.

To Mrs. Roxie Collie Simpson, retiring Secretary, we wish to express our appreciation of the excellent management of this work and the considerable amount of executive work which she has had to assume. It is our loss that she is leaving the State for work with the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D. C.

Because of the numerous requests for "The Carolina Calendar," column by Dr. Phillips Russell in the Raleigh News and Observer, the North Carolina Bird Club requests that Dr. Russell and the News and Observer resume the publication of this feature.

We recommend that as part of the minutes of this meeting that it be recorded that suitable memorials have been written in *The Chat* for Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, who passed away September 3, 1943, in New York City, and for Captain Churchill Bragaw, who was killed in action in Italy, January 22, 1944.

To the officers and members of the Raleigh Bird Club, host for this Seventh Annual Meeting, we wish to extend the thanks of the N. C. Bird Club for the program, arrangements, and splendid hospitality.

MARIEL GARY,

HARRY T. DAVIS,

Raleigh, N. C., May 13, 1944.      ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Chairman*.

## Two More Municipal Bird Sanctuaries

FARMVILLE A BIRD SANCTUARY: This town was made a Bird Sanctuary by the City Commissioners in 1940. It has a Boy's Audubon Club at the present time which is quite active.

MISS TABITHA DEVISCONTI.

MAIDEN A BIRD SANCTUARY: As I came home from Tryon August 28, I saw a bird sanctuary sign at Maiden. Did not know of this one. Will send in a report when I get it.

GRACE ANDERSON.

## **T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club and Sanctuary**

On the 110th Charter Day, observed at Guilford College on January 13th, a special program was given honoring the memory of its most distinguished alumnus and former teacher, T. Gilbert Pearson, the internationally known ornithologist and bird conservationist, who died September 3, 1943. At the morning program, Miss Dorothy Lloyd Gilbert, associate professor of English and author of the centennial history of the College, was the principal speaker. She read a short sketch of T. Gilbert Pearson's life and contributions to Guilford College.

At the evening meeting of the Charter Day Program, Dr. Eva G. Campbell, professor of biology, made public the plans of organization of the T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Club, composed of students and faculty of Guilford College and other interested people in the surrounding community. David H. Parsons, Jr., business manager of Guilford College, introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Archie D. Shaftesbury, associate professor of zoology at Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, who gave a lecture, "Bird Lore in North Carolina," which was illustrated with lantern slides.

During the past spring, with the advice of representatives of the North Carolina Department of Conservation, the entire campus of Guilford College, comprising nearly 300 acres, has been made into a wildlife sanctuary, to be known as the T. Gilbert Pearson Bird Sanctuary. Plans are under way for extension of already established planting and landscaping, for provision for water and increase of suitable nesting sites, and, in general, for improving conditions for the attraction, feeding, and protection of birds.

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## **U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital Wild Bird Sanctuary**

CAPTAIN W. A. ANGWIN, (M. C.), U. S. N., Asheville

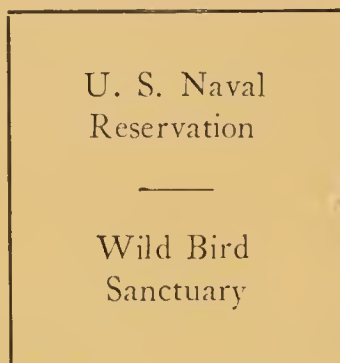
(Captain Angwin entered the Navy from California in 1904 as a Medical Officer. His service has included nearly fourteen years at sea and the remainder on shore at various naval hospitals in the United States where he followed his specialty of surgery. In 1933 he was placed in command of the Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor. From there he went to the Asiatic Station and was in Shanghai in 1937 when the Japanese opened hostilities at that place. In January 1943, he came to Asheville to command the Naval Convalescent Hospital. Captain Angwin says: "My interest in birds began when I was stationed in Norfolk about four years ago. My neighbor was a bird enthusiast, and soon had me taking more acute observations of birds than I have ever done before. I presume that now bird observation is a major hobby with me. I find it of absorbing interest."—Editor.)

Last fall, it was realized that our hospital reservation of some thirteen acres would make a splendid sanctuary for wild birds. Immediately adjacent to the lawns and other cultivated areas of the grounds are virgin masses of trees of many varieties. This untended forest has a thick undergrowth of shrubs and vines—a natural refuge and safe nesting place for birds.

Preparations for the sanctuary were begun during the winter. Patients working in the Occupational Therapy Department first made feeding trays and suet feeders. These were placed about the grounds for winter feeding and were kept supplied with grain and suet. Occasionally now rare sunflower seeds were obtained and put out. Two small water basins were provided. These feeders were definite factors in bringing birds to the grounds and keeping them near us during the winter. Considerable ingenuity was shown in making the feeders. Two feeders, made to swing with the wind, were fashioned from discarded tilting tops of hotel biscuit warmers, fitted with vanes.

Then the patients set about making various sizes and types of nesting boxes and shelves. As spring approached, many of these were hung on trees here and there on the reservation.

Signs which announce the sanctuary have been placed at the entrance to the grounds.



In May, a sunken garden with pool and fountain was added to the landscaping of the grounds. This provides a bird bath with bubbling running water, and it has already been taken over by the birds.

There is evidence that birds are responding to the invitation to make their homes here, as many nests have been found. For three weeks, ending June 15th, a nest-finding contest was held at the hospital. The patients were urged to participate, a small prize being given for the winner. The object of the search was not only to interest the patients in birds but also to find out how many nesting birds we had. The winner of the contest turned in a total of 52 nests; and three nests have been found since June 15th. In addition, a day-old fledgling of a Redstart was seen with its mother, but no nest for it was found. While many nests were unidentified, being unoccupied, identification was made of nests of Robins, Doves, Thrashers, Wood Thrush, Catbirds, Towhees, Song Sparrows, English Sparrows, a Red-eyed Vireo, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, and a Kentucky Warbler. In one of the bird boxes a pair of Flickers had raised their family.

June 23, 1944.



## List of Birds of Mecklenburg County

The recent publication of Elizabeth Barnhill Clarkson's booklet "Birds of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County," by the parents of children enrolled in the Charlotte Country Day School is a fine tribute of appreciation of the work of this enthusiastic bird lover. The list of 178 species of birds, includes early and late dates, and dates of observation of less common forms. (One record that will not be repeated is that for Passenger Pigeon. The last definite Mecklenburg County record which Mrs. Clarkson has found for this species is October, 1875, when three of the birds were killed near what is now the intersection of two of Charlotte's busiest streets, East Morehead and South Boulevard.) Over a hundred species of birds have been observed by Mrs. Clarkson in her garden.

Besides the list, the booklet includes two brief, well written, very practical articles, "Attracting Birds to the Garden," and "Aids to Bird Study." Just the right size to be pasted in the back of "Birds of North Carolina," the booklet is really a must for those studying birds in the Mecklenburg region, and bird students in other regions will find it valuable. Mrs. Clarkson says that she hopes "it will be a help to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts just starting out to have fun with birds." As a matter of fact, adults as well as youngsters will find many interesting and useful facts in this attractively printed booklet.

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## Some Notes on Gilbert White's "Natural History of Selborne"

H. H. BRIMLEY, Raleigh

### PART II

White mentions but few mammals: Bats, weasels, rabbits, hares, fox, harvest mouse, shrew-mouse (old name for shrew), hedgehog, water-rat, etc. The hedgehog is a not uncommon insectivorous animal, reaching a weight of about two pounds, and eaten only by Gypsies. It is spined all over the upperparts, like a porcupine, but with shorter spines. Of bats in general he says: "It seems needless to state that the bat is an animal and not a bird or an insect."

To illustrate the self-sacrificing tenacity with which a bird may protect its prospective family, I am quoting his description of a touching tragedy: "In the center of this grove there stood an oak, which, though shapely and tall on the whole, bulged out into a large excrescence about the middle of the stem. On this a pair of ravens had fixed their residence for such a series of years, that the oak was distinguished by the title of the Raven Tree. Many were the attempts of the neighboring youths to get this cypress; the difficulty whetted the inclinations, and each was ambitious of surmounting the arduous task, but when they arrived at the swelling, it jutted out

so in the way, and was so beyond their grasp, that the most daring were awed, and acknowledged the undertaking to be too hazardous; so the ravens built on and on, nest upon nest, in perfect security, till the fatal day arrived in which the wood was to be levelled. It was in the month of February, when these birds usually sit. The saw was applied to the but, wedges were inserted into the opening, the woods echoed to the heavy blow of the beetle or mall or mallet, the tree nodded to its fall; but still the dam sat on. At last, when it gave way, the bird was flung from her nest; and, though her parental affection deserved a better fate, was whipped down by the twigs, which brought her dead to the ground."

And, regarding the landrail, he says: "That shyest of birds often sits upon its eggs on the ground in the hayfield until it is slain by the scythe of the mowers."

Stepping over to the mammals for a moment, we find how a hind (female of the red deer) attacked a dog that seemed to be getting too close to the thicket in which she had hidden her fawn, and promptly killed it by leaping high in the air and coming down on the back of the dog's neck, with all four feet bunched, which resulted in a broken neck for the dog. This method of attack, by the way, is said to be used by the white-tailed deer of our eastern counties in killing poisonous snakes.

A General Howe, who owned property near that covered by White's investigations, introduced "some German wild boars and sows in his forests to the great terror of neighborhood, and at one time a wild bull, or buffalo, but the country rose upon them and destroyed them."

In describing the food habits of a tame bat, White says: "Insects seem to be acceptable, although it did not refuse raw flesh when offered; so that the notion, that bats go down chimneys and gnaw men's bacon, seems no improbable story."

He refers rather frequently to the possible hibernation of the members of the martin and swallow groups, but every time he attempts to offer proof thereof, something or other crops and leaves him still more or less in the air, but his speculations extended almost to the end. Here is one of his earliest: "But a clergyman of an inquisitive turn assures me that when he was a great boy some workmen, in pulling down the battlement of a church tower in the early spring found two or three swifts (*Hirundines apodes*) among the rubbish, which were at first appearance dead, but being carried towards the fire revived. He told me that after his great care to preserve them, he put them in a paper bag, and hung them by the kitchen fire, where they were suffocated."

It may be noted that White places the martins, swallows and swifts in the same genus, *Hirundines*, after Linnaeus, I presume. He also mentions the breeding of martins up to late in the fall, with the following question: "Are not these late hatchings more in favor of hiding than migration?"

"The swallow, probably the male bird, is the *excubitor* to house-martins and other little birds, announcing the approach of all birds of

prey, for as soon as a hawk appears, with a shrill alarming note he calls all the swallows and martins about him; who pursue in a body, and buffet and stirke their enemy till they have driven him from the village, darting down from above on his back, and rising in a perpendicular line in perfect security."

Speaking of a species of falcon that he had failed to identify, and was sending to one of his correspondents, he says: "It haunted a marshy piece of ground in quest of wild ducks and snipes, but when it was shot, it had just knocked down a rook, which it was tearing to pieces. I cannot make it answer to any of our English hawks nor could I find any like it at the curious exhibition in Spring Gardens. I found it nailed up at the end of a barn, which is the countryman's museum."

Jackdaws are said by White to frequently make use of rabbit burrows (the English rabbit is a burrowing animal), particularly in districts where church steeples and towers are far apart. The only nest of this species ever found by the writer was in the hollow of a dead limb on a living tree.

"There is no bird," says White, "whose manners I have studied more than that of the *caprimulgus* (goat-sucker). \* \* \* It appears to me past all doubt that the notes are formed by organic impulse, by the power of the windpipe formed for sound, just as cats purr. \* \* \* My neighbors were at an hermitage on the side of a steep hill where we drink tea when one of these churn-owls came and settled on the cross of the little straw edifice and began to chatter, and continued his note for many moments, and we were all struck with wonder to find that the organs of that little animal, when put in motion, gave a sensible vibration to the whole building."

Besides the works of Linnaeus and Ray, almost his contemporaries, White once mentions a periodical called *The Naturalist's Journal*. Two of the four colored plates of birds are given as reproductions of specimens in the Chicago Academy of Sciences (remember that the reprint I have is dated 1901), and one of them, the ring dove is, in its coloration, so far away from that of the bird it is supposed to represent, that I am taking the matter up with the Chicago Academy to discover the reason therefor.

I was *exposed* to this book, as a child, but found it of minor interest, as many of the birds treated by the writer were not found, at least not recognized by us under the same name, in that part of England with which I was familiar, and its treatment on matters in general was too "grown up" to fit into my craving for adventure and for matters relating directly to hunting and fishing. About the only thing I remembered from that exposure was the incident of a man killing a lot of wood-pigeons with one shot from his long-barrelled fowlingpiece. I found this item on page 93 of my copy, which reads: "I have consulted with a sportsman, now in his seventy-eighth year, who tells me that fifty or sixty years back (1720-1730) the number of wood-pigeons was astonishing, and that with a long wildfowl piece he had shot [this mean killed] seven or eight at a time on the wing as they came wheeling over his head."



This was different from the days when I hunted this species, finding them wild as hawks, very difficult to approach and hard to bring down. The hunter earned every wood-pigeon he secured in my day and time.

White is guilty of a rather unfortunate error in speaking of the native wild pigeons. He makes stock-dove and wood-pigeon two names for the same species, whereas the other name for the wood-pigeon is ring-dove, the stock-dove being a separate species of different coloration and habits. As White says, the wood-pigeon was, in his day, very destructive to turnips when grown in the fields, which was also true when I knew them at first hand. They were also bad on field peas. I once killed a specimen whose crop was packed so full of turnip greens as to burst open as the falling bird hit the hard ground.

Here is a little item that seems to be worth mention: "As some people were shooting in the parish of Trotton, in the County of Sussex, they killed a duck in that dreadful winter of 1708-9, with a silver collar about its neck, on which were engarven the arms of the King of Denmark." Early bird-banding, on a royal scale, one might think.

Some of White's friends experimented on the "pitch" of various bird notes with a "pitch-pipe," though not always with the same results. Making the effort, however, indicates that a hundred and fifty years ago there were some real observers in the field.

Here is a statement that rather impressed me: "I am glad that you are making enquiries from Linnaeus concerning the wood-cock; it is expected of him that he should be able to account for the motions and manners of the life of the animals in his own 'Fauna.' Faunists, as you observe, are apt to acquiesce in bare description, and a few synonyms; the reason is plain; because all that may be done at home in a man's study, but the investigation of the life and conversation of animals is a concern of much more trouble and difficulty, and not to be attained but by the active and inquisitive, and by those who reside much in the country." Looks like a wee speck of jealousy might be creeping in here!

*(To be continued)*

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On the inside back cover of this issue of *The Chat* is a list of the new members that have been approved by the executive committee since the last membership list was published. We are very glad to welcome them to the North Carolina Bird Club. The work of the Club and the development of *The Chat* depend upon a live membership list. If you know of one or more people you would recommend to membership send in their names, or, better still, send in their dollar (or \$5.00 for Sustaining Membership), together with their names and correct address, to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer, N. C. B. C., 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

## You Can Help the Moore General Hospital Bird Sanctuary

The Statesville Community Club (of which the Statesville Audubon Club is a group) gave, through the Conservation Department, in the name of the North Carolina Bird Club, over a hundred and fifty dollars to begin a bird club and bird sanctuary at the Moore General Hospital, in Swannanoa, for the patients, returned overseas men. To the list of furnishings that has already appeared in *The Chat* (March, 1944, v. 7, p. 20-21), may be added three bird baths, many bird houses, and a twenty-eight room martin house with adjustable pole for cleaning house. All clubs and individual members are asked, if interested, to carry on this work until the Moore General has an outstanding hobby for its returned overseas men. Only commercially built bird houses and baths should be sent, for their correct and substantial workmanship.

GRACE ANDERSON, *Sanctuary Chairman*,  
N. C. B. C., Statesville.

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## Poisonous Snakes of the United States

"Poisonous Snakes of the Eastern United States with First Aid Guide," is the title of a handy reference booklet which has just been issued by the State Museum Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. The book, compiled by Harry T. Davis and Dr. C. S. Brimley, contains four color plates and seven very good black and white figures of poisonous snakes, and also five clear pictures illustrating the section on first aid for snake bite. The authors point out that of the 60 kinds of snakes occurring in the eastern United States, just eight are classed as dangerous and poisonous to man. They include the little known coral snake, of the cobra family; and seven species of the pit viper group—two moccasins: highland moccasin (copperhead), and water moccasin (cotton mouth); and five kinds of rattlesnakes: massasauga, pigmy rattlesnake, diamond-back rattlesnake, banded rattlesnake, and canebrake rattlesnake. (The massasauga or prairie rattler is apparently the only poisonous one not reported from North Carolina.) Appearance, behavior, and food habits of the reptiles are described briefly, and data on size and distribution are included.

The booklet meets a long felt need of hunters, fishermen, farmers, Boy and Girl Scouts, and many others whose work or play takes them outdoors. It is well worth several times its price, 10 cents, and although it has only been released a few weeks, thousands have already been distributed to all sections of the United States.

Copies of this valuable work should be distributed throughout this section, and the North Carolina Bird Club is glad to be of assistance in its distribution. If you cannot get copies from your dealer, order direct. Address: N. C. Bird Club—Book Fund, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C., enclosing 10c each for as many copies as you wish. Be sure to print your name and address correctly.

## Field Notes and News

**LATE WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS:** This year in my garden the white-throats kept on staying and staying, only about half a dozen of them, till about the middle of June. C. S. Brimley got suspicious of their identity and I borrowed a bird-banding trap from Harry Davis and caught one on June 11. Brimley came over, viewed the bird and pronounced it O.K. From then on they still stayed and the last were seen on July 6. I should imagine that they were unmated birds.

DAVID L. WRAY, Raleigh, N. C.

**GREENSBORO:** Miss Etta Schiffman and Mrs. Edith Settan heard a White-throated Sparrow on June 17, at Old Mill Camp. The call was heard several times, and the bird was pretty definitely identified. A Lesser Scaup Duck was noted July 24, on White Oak mill pond, by Tom Zapf. A Wormeating Warbler was noted on August 23, and two Baltimore Orioles on August 29, by Tom Zapf and Larry Crawford.

**CANADA GEESE NEST IN SURRY COUNTY:** The N. C. Department of Conservation and Development is the source of the information that several broods of Canada Geese were hatched in May at Long Creek Lodge in Surry county. Around 50 geese remain there to nest each spring.

**WOOD PEWEE RECAPTURES ITS MEAL:** One day this summer I was walking in my garden when a bird flew by me and perched on a power wire. On looking I saw that it was a Wood Pewee and had a white butterfly in its bill. While I was watching it dropped the butterfly. It immediately flew off its perch, made a double turn and caught the butterfly before it had dropped more than a foot. It then returned to its perch and swallowed the butterfly wings and all. C. S. BRIMLEY.

**CORMORANT AND LOON AT SPARTANBURG:** A Common Loon in summer plumage stayed at Zimmerman Lake for several days this spring, and I saw and identified it on May 20. Then on June 11, Misses Carlisle, Crich and I saw a Florida Cormorant; we were so close that we could see the hook of the bill without glasses. The two ladies also have a record of a Little Blue Heron in white plumage on July 9, and they also saw a large flock of Goldfinches in early July.

GABRIEL CANNON, Spartanburg, S. C.

**CORMORANT AT RALEIGH:** A Double-crested Cormorant in immature plumage was noted at Lake Raleigh on June 1.

MRS. R. C. SIMPSON.

**CLAPPER RAIL AT RALEIGH:** A bird of this species was picked up dead in the street here on April 21. Although the somewhat larger King Rail is common in the marshes and wet meadows here, it was quite an unexpected occurrence for this salt-marsh form to straggle as far inland.

NORMAN MCCULLOCH.

**MAN O' WAR BIRDS AT WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH:** While down here for four days, July 30-August 2, I saw no less than eight Audubon's Shearwaters, and banded one of them. Brown Pelicans were quite common, but the prize observation of the trip was that of five Man O' War Birds, one adult and four immature, heading into the wind on August 2 and bravely facing the rising storm.

JOHN COFFEY, Jr., Raleigh.

**WHITE IBIS AT LAKE WACCAMAW:** I saw a bird of this species at the overflow while on a short visit down here on August 11 and 12. At first I thought it might be a Wood Ibis by its curved bill but it was much too small. The upper parts as well as head and neck were dusky grayish and the underparts white, hence it must have been in immature plumage. This is the fourth record for the state.

ERNEST MITCHELL, Jr., Raleigh.



**UNUSUAL PAIR OF ORCHARD ORIOLES:** This summer a pair of Orchard Orioles built a nest and raised a brood on my lot, in which while the male was a full plumaged specimen, the females had a black throat, a condition normally only assumed by the male in its first breeding season. The line between the black of the throat and the yellow of her breast was very distinct. I had many excellent opportunities to study the bird, breast view with glasses, sometimes within twelve feet. My daughter also saw the bird and can confirm its black breast.

MRS. G. E. CHARLES, Columbia, S. C.

**SWANSBORO:** While on a visit down here in late August, I saw a Wormeating Warbler on the 19th, running about much like a Nuthatch in a live oak tree. On the 22nd I saw a Brown Pelican near Bogue Inlet.

NORMAN MCCULLOCH, Raleigh, N. C.

**VIREOS SCARCE AT TRYON:** In 1942 and prior years a number nested on my place, last year I did not find one, and this year I have only seen one pair nesting. Also for the past two years Whippoorwills have been scarce, almost entirely absent.

G. H. HOLMES.

**BIRDS AT STATESVILLE:** May 15, Black-throated Blue Warbler; May 16, Blackpoll (latest date for state this year). May 26, pair of Redstarts, nest of Yellow-throated Vireo with three eggs, also two oriole nests, one with young, the other in the making, and a Chipping Sparrow with young. June 11, Ovenbird nest with almost fully fledged young, a pair of Kentucky Warblers, and a Prairie Warbler; June 13, Cedar Waxwings.

GRACE ANDERSON.

**PAINTED BUNTING NEST.** While at Beaufort, July 10-18 we saw these beautiful birds every day and on July 10, we found a nest 10 feet up in a live oak. the first nest I believe reported from this region, altho it has been known to occur there for years. Next day we heard a Swainson's Warbler singing outside the Laboratory window.

JOHN COFFEY, JR., Raleigh, TOM ZAPP, Greensboro.

**HORNED GREBE IN FULL PLUMAGE.** On May 24, I saw one in full plumage off Sear's Landing, the landing point for Camp Davis. This seems to be only the third full plumaged specimen on record from the state.

GEOFFREY CARLETON.

**SNOWY EGRET AT RALEIGH:** On July 29 while we were watching a number of white herons on Lake Raleigh, most of which were American Egrets and juvenile Little Blues, two specimens detached themselves from the rest and alighted within a hundred feet of us. While we were watching one of them lifted its leg out of the water, and while the leg was black the foot was yellow, thus establishing its identity as a Snowy.

JOHN COFFEY, JR., ROBERT COOPER.

**COLUMBIA, S. C.:** In early July there were 35 nests on my "Sanctuary," representing 32 pairs of eleven species. This was on the full seven acre tract. However since then two or three acres have been sold, but the number for the entire year would have been about the usual.

MRS. G. E. CHARLES.

**CHARLOTTE:** A large white bird was reported on a chimney of a house on Idlewood Circle shortly after noon, August 10th, and that evening a Charlotte News photographer and columnist Dorothy Knox were taking pictures and interviewing the Russell boys, Erwin and Eddie, who had caught the bird in the back yard of their home on Lexington Avenue. Mrs. E. O. Clarkson identified the bird as an American Egret. She found it badly emaciated but it was eating fish which its friends had cut into strips and put into water for it. The bird will be released on a pond near Charlotte, where there are other herons.

Mr. C. E. Bradshaw of Charlotte, reports that when he was a boy nighthawks were so plentiful during migrations that the boys, being unenlightened by modern

ideas of conservation, could get up on top of a barn or other building, and knock them out of the air with sticks as they flew over. A far cry from the present when they are scarce in Charlotte this year, though there are more during migration.

Mr. Karl Ginter of the Mecklenburg Audubon Club, of Charlotte was listening to a short wave broadcast from Italy in the middle of the worst fighting several months ago and as it was being broadcast where you could hear the big guns firing in the distance. The announcer interrupted to call attention to the song of a Nightingale which could be plainly heard against the background of noise from the guns. A bit of beauty surviving amidst a war torn world.

ELIZABETH BARNHILL CLARKSON.

A Chipping Sparrow was observed feeding a young one on August 27th, near Queens College, in Charlotte. A drizzling rain was falling, the temperature was around 55°, a near record low for this time of the year, and the parent was having difficulty pacifying her one crying youngster.

A nest of Bachman's Sparrow, with four eggs, was observed June 4 in Charlotte by B. R. Chamberlain, who made photographs and continued observations until June 17th, when the young left the nest. This is apparently the first Mecklenburg county nesting record for this species. More of the details together with some of Mr. Chamberlain's photographs will be published in the next issue of *The Chat*.—A.D.S.

DAVIDSON: About fourteen Wood Thrushes, including some still being fed by their parents, were observed on the campus of Davidson College during the first ten days of August, but none were seen between the 15th and 26th of August, when observations stopped. Several times each day, from August 19th to 22nd, a Wood Pewee was observed feeding two young that were able to fly. A. D. S.

NOTES ON NESTING WARBLERS AT U. S. NAVAL CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL WILD BIRD SANCTUARY, ASHEVILLE, N. C.: The nest of a chestnut-sided Warbler was discovered on the Wild Bird Sanctuary, early on the morning of June 4th by Marvin A. DeLano, Slc, a patient at this hospital. The nest held two young birds which appeared to be about one day old, as fuzz was just beginning to show on their bodies. I saw the nest and young, and both parents feeding the nestlings on the afternoon of June 5th, and watched them daily until they left the nest on the afternoon of June 10th. The nest was built in a honeysuckle vine clinging to a small locust tree growing at the edge of a seldom-used road. It was four and a half feet from the road level, and two and a half feet from the nearest surface of the road embankment. In making the nest, pieces of Kleenex had been incorporated in the outer layers, but the lining was of fine grasses. Identification of the bird was positive. The male answered to the description in Peterson's Guide, having yellow crown on head, white sides to head and under parts of body, chestnut brown lines on body below wings, and yellow wing bars. He came within three feet of me to feed the young. The female was less shy, in fact seemed quite unafraid, and was seen much more frequently than the male. At one observation, she rested on a twig about two feet from me and preened herself for about five minutes. The yellow crown, chestnut markings, and yellow wing bars were less marked but present. In certain lights, her back was flecked with the gold of tiny yellow feathers among the duller colored feathers.

On June 8, a nest of a Kentucky Warbler was found by M. A. DeLano, Slc, a patient at this hospital. The nest was built on the ground, about fifteen feet from the edge of a low embankment above a little-used road and in the midst of a wild growth of shrubbery and trees. It was well hidden below a low Jack-in-the-Pulpit among the shrubs, which made it almost impossible to detect. It would not have been found except by a long study of the movements of the adults which led to the site. The nest contained five young birds fairly well feathered and judged to be three or four days old. The feeding of the young was observed daily until June 13, when



no adult birds were noted. On the afternoon of the 13th the nest was examined and found to be empty. A pair of adult Kentucky Warblers had been seen that same morning down the road about 250 feet from the nesting site, but whether this was the same pair was not determined. At first, our impression was that we had a Yellow-throat but when we saw both male and female carry grubs at the same time, we noted that the female also had black markings on the cheek. Closer observation disclosed a black crown and a yellow line above the black cheek circling above and half around the eye, which we considered sufficient to identify the birds as Kentucky Warblers.

W. A. ANGWIN, Captain (M. C.), U. S. N.

PEA ISLAND: Wilson's Plover and Least Tern had a fair nesting season here this year, the three breeding ducks, Black, Gadwall and Blue-winged Teal a good one. The Black-crowned Night Heron rookery on the Refuge had at least 14 or more nests of Snowy Egrets, and the species was several times observed lighting on the nests. Louisiana Herons were probably also nesting there though none were actually seen on the nests. An unusual sight was a Man O' War Bird in immature plumage flying by the camp on May 23. It afterwards flew out over the sound and stayed there for about half an hour, being observed by Grey, Mackenzie and Sam Walker. Next day two Northern Phalaropes were observed as well as ten or more White-rumped Sandpipers.

JOHN H. GREY JR., LOCKE MACKENZIE.

HENDERSON NOTES: Our most unusual record this year was that of a Greater Scaup Duck which was noted from April 29 to May 11 on a neighboring pond. It was seen and first identified by Mrs. R. C. Simpson of the State Museum on April 29. Scarlet Tanagers occurred from April 26 to May 10, over a dozen in all being seen; two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on April 26, and a Baltimore Oriole on April 25 and 29. Siskins and Red-breasted Nuthatches commoner than usual this winter and early spring, both noted well into April. Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted up to May 18, latest date for the state this year. A Redstart was found sitting on her nest on May 20, and two Acadian Flycatchers doing the same thing, the same day. A flock of about a dozen Yellow Palm Warblers on April 23, while a single bird thought to be the Western Palm observed on April 17 and 22, all by Misses Hunter, Myers and Gary. Three species were added to the local list this year; the Greater Scaup Duck as noted above, and the Blue-winged and Black-throated Green Warblers, both of the latter on April 29.

JEANETTE S. BACHMAN.

PARKERSBURG, W. VA., BOY SCOUT TROOP THREE: Each year this group, which includes several members of the North Carolina Bird Club, makes a trip in the area around *Buckeye Lake, near Columbus, Ohio*. Visited each year at the last of April and the first of May, this area usually provides us with a wealth of birds, especially the warblers, and ducks and other water birds. This year the warblers were not present in the usually large numbers, and we also missed on several other birds including some of the water birds. We travel in our own truck, camp out and cook our own meals, and put in most of Sunday covering a pre-arranged course, woods, swamps, lake, etc. so as to catch the many different birds which are found in each place.

For several years we have used the field check list of the Toledo Field Naturalists' Association, and find it very useful around Parkersburg, W. Va. For the Buckeye Lake trip April 30, 1944, from 6 a. m. to 3 p. m., 68 different species were listed.

R. CLYDE CABELL.

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Your Address: Will you please read and check the print of your name and address on the back cover of this Chat. If it is not correct, send a penny postal card giving the correct spelling and the correct address to the editor of the *Chat*, Greensboro, or to Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Treasurer N. C. B. C., 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.



## With the Editor

**NO FALL MEETING:** Several members have written to ask about the possibility of a fall meeting and for several weeks the Executive Committee has been discussing the matter with various members and groups, and it does not seem advisable to arrange a fall meeting for this year.

J. Weston Clinard, Vice-President of the Hickory Bird Club, wants to know what chance the Hickory Bird Club would have to be the host at the next annual spring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club.

Plans had been made to include in this September *Chat* two articles of special interest to school teachers and school children, but the "best laid plans," etc. They will be in the November issue. A particularly interesting article in the November *Chat* is by Thomas J. Jones of Durham, who tells of some of his observations of "Land Birds on the Ocean," observations made while he was on convoy duty as a member of the U. S. Naval Reserve, serving in the U. S. Merchant marine.

Only two or three of the local bird clubs of North Carolina have had to suspend activities for the duration, due to loss of members, war work, gasoline scarcity, and various other factors. Most of the other groups are active with various projects, the benefits of which are extending beyond the local communities, and into the future as well. Miss Grace Anderson's letter regarding the work led by the Statesville community group, with the returned overseas men who are patients at the Moore General Hospital, and the article in this issue of the *Chat*, by Captain W. A. Angwin regarding some of the work at the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital at Kenilworth Park, Asheville, both make us realize more than ever that present conditions offer new challenges and opportunities for service for human betterment and happiness.

The North Carolina State Museum recently has had several inquiries from South Carolinians concerning the organization of a State Bird Club in the Palmetto State. The North Carolina Bird Club has several members in South Carolina, and will be glad to help in any way it can in organizing their State Bird Club. Just call on us!

"The Mystery of Migration," by Ivan T. Sanderson, in *The Saturday Evening Post* for July 15th, is an interesting article on migration and mass movements of various kinds of animals.

"A Buzzard for a Household Pet," by W. C. Allen, in the July 1st issue of Carl Goerch's *The State*, is an interesting account of a buzzard which for a time took up with a family at Belhaven, fed with the cats and dogs, and became quite a family pet, even helping the family collie get rid of some of her fleas.

The magazine *North Carolina Wildlife Conservation* often has articles on birds which are of interest to some of the members of the North Carolina Bird Club. In the May issue is an article, "Courtship and Mating of Eastern Mourning Dove," by Mark H. Taylor. In the June issue is an article by Archie D. Shaftesbury, entitled "The Starling—A Not Too Welcome Foreigner," which includes a map showing the rate and extent of spread of the European Starling since its introduction into the United States in 1890.

**Regarding Checks:** The Treasurer of the North Carolina Bird Club, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, whose address is 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, says the North Carolina Bird Club loses 15c out of each dollar check from a State Bank, due to an exchange fee which is charged by the banks. So, if your bank is a State bank, you can save this loss to the North Carolina Bird Club by sending money order or bills when you pay your membership fee.

## New Members

- Charles C. Ayers, Jr., Suite 27-28, Langdale Bldg., Ottumwa, Iowa.
- Mrs. W. H. Beckerlite, 201 N. Union St., Concord.
- Miss Frances Bargin, R. F. D., Arden. Caldwell Country Library, Lenoir.
- Charlotte Public Library, 310 N. Tryon, Charlotte 2.
- Miss Grace Cheek, 503 Trollinger St., Burlington.
- John Coffey, Box 331, Raleigh.
- Mrs. Z. V. Conyers, 8 Oak Ct., Greensboro.
- John Conyngton, 514 S. Main St., Reidsville.
- Teddy Davis, Route 3, Raleigh.
- Marx Deal, Box 381, Rockingham.
- Thomas B. Doe, 2 East 86th St., New York, N. Y.
- Mrs. Pearl W. Dore, 176 Chestnut St., Asheville.
- E. D. Edgerton, R. F. D. 1, Seven Springs.
- Miss Isabel Faison, 317 Liberty, Durham.
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- Girl Reserve Club, care Mrs. T. K. Steele, Harding High School, Charlotte 2.
- Dr. Stanley A. Harris, Boy Scouts of America, Sherwood.
- Laurence F. Hays, Mill Knob Farm, Arden.
- Harvey M. Heywood, 28 Cedar Cliff Rd., Biltmore Forest, N. C.
- Mrs. Harvey M. Heywood, 28 Cedar Cliff Rd., Biltmore Forest, N. C.
- Master George H. Holmes, III, R. F. D. 1, Brevard.
- Robert Franklin Hook, 2716 Anderson Drive, Raleigh.
- Miss Thelma Howell, Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.
- Mrs. J. N. Johnson, Goldsboro.
- Pvt. N. W. Katz, A.S.N. 36896442, 109th Genl. Hospital, Fort Bragg.
- Samuel H. Lamb, Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland.
- Ronnie Ledbetter, 1515 Scotland Ave., Charlotte 4.
- Sawin Hughes Loy, 601 Jackson St., Roanoke Rapids.
- Jimmy McCulloch, 3132 Sussex Road, Raleigh.
- Mrs. Douglass McMillin, 209 Woodburn Road, Raleigh.
- G. Gordon Maley, Jr., Warren H. Wilson College, Swannanoa.
- J. E. Maxey, 1222 Grayland St., Greensboro.
- Mrs. Clyde A. Milner, Guilford College.
- Ernest Mitchell, Jr., 615 N. Blount St., Raleigh.
- Col. T. D. Osborne, 133 Woodland Rd., Grove Park, Asheville.
- Mrs. John M. Parker, Box 365, Spruce Pine.
- Mrs. David Parsons, Jr., Guilford College.
- Miss Lelia V. Patterson, Mountain Sanitarium, Fletcher.
- Miss Annie Payne, 4 Van Ruck Terrace, Asheville.
- Frank M. Payne, Security Life & Trust Co., Boone.
- Mrs. Carl H. Pegg, Box 304, Chapel Hill.
- Watson M. Penygo, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.
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- Mrs. Joseph Hyde Pratt, Owings Mills, Md.
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- Charles M. Swart, 10 Scott Apts., Greensboro.
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- Dr. Maurice Whittinghill, 615 East Rosemary, Chapel Hill.
- Glenn Wallace Wilcox, Boone.
- Miss Mary Lou Williams, Box 687, Reidsville.
- Mrs. L. I. Young, Box 60, Burlington.

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Lenoir Audubon Club: P—Fred H. May; V-P—Thos. Parks; S—Miss May Puett, 512 West Harper St.  
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Southern Pines Bird Club: P—Mary Keller Wintyen; V-P & S—Miss Louise Haynes; T. & Rec. Sec.—Miss Norma Shiring  
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# The Chat

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BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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# The Chat

## BULLETIN OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

DR. ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY, *Editor*

Woman's College of University of North Carolina, Greensboro, N. C.

DR. C. S. BRIMLEY, *Associate Editor*

N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C.

"North Carolina was the first of the Southern States to take an active stand in the matter of preserving its wild bird and animal resources."

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### CONTENTS

	PAGE
President's Message	65
News of the Local Clubs	66
Land Birds on the Sea. <i>Thomas J. Jones</i>	68
The North Carolina Bird Club Book Fund. <i>Harry T. Davis</i>	69
1944 Christmas Count, December 17-25	70
Birds to Be Looked for in the 1944 Christmas Count in Inland North Carolina	
<i>C. S. Brimley</i>	71
High School Ornithology Essay Contest	73
Bird Talks in Our Public Schools. <i>Henry Magie</i>	74
The Piedmont Club Bird House Contest. <i>Emma Leah Perrett</i>	75
Field Notes and News	77
With the Editor	80
Sustaining Members	Inside Back Cover
Officers of the N. C. Bird Club	Outside Back Cover
Local Clubs and Officers	Outside Back Cover

### THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

Organized March 6, 1937, for the study and protection of our birds. Membership is open to those interested in this work, and is divided into four classes: Active Members, who pay dues of \$1.00 per year; Sustaining Members, dues of \$5.00 a year; Contributing Members, dues of \$25.00 a year; Life Members, one lump sum of \$100.00.

Nominations and applications for membership should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C.

## President's Message

Did you take advantage of "October's bright blue weather" and hike to the woods or fields to greet some of the winter visitors as they arrived? If you didn't, then you missed something that would have refreshed your soul for many days!

I regret that we were unable to enjoy the fellowship of a fall meetnig, but I hope we have not let our interest and enthusiasm lag because of this. It has been difficult to plan and carry out plans by correspondence. Members of the executive committee are considering projects that we hope will materialize before a great while, and will contribute something toward the strength and influence of the Club.

Dr. Shaftesbury reports that excellent material is coming in for *The Chat*. Miss Anderson writes that things are beginning to take shape at the Sanctuary at Moore General Hospital. In a brief visit with Miss Claudia Hunter I found that Henderson has a wide-awake and enthusiastic club that we are going to hear more about in the future. Some splendid reports have come in from other local clubs telling of interesting activities being carried on. This is most encouraging. May I suggest to those local clubs that are more or less inactive, that you make an effort to stir up the members, reminding them that club meetings will refresh the mind and soul and lift one above the monotonous routine of the day. To promote interest, try borrowing or renting bird slides or bird movies from the Extension Department of the University of North Carolina and State College. Write to these institutions for information. If there is a naturalist or ornithologist nearby invite him to visit your club.

I have reminded you of the lovely October weather. Now I would remind you that winter weather is just around the corner. Get out your feeders and feeding boards and lay in a supply of food for the birds. This will be your Christmas gift to them.

The next issue of *The Chat* will appear in January. Let's have a list of new members in it that will include at least one new membership sent in by every person now a member. Make an effort to become or to get a supporting member. We need more funds to enlarge *The Chat* and be able to include some illustrations. If you have any good pictures of birds or bird nests that you have made, send them in and along with them a sufficient fund to cover the cost of the plate. (Is that asking too much?)

This message is not intended as a Christmas message but since we do not have a December issue I am wishing every one a most peaceful Christmas and leave with you the words of Tiny Tim, "God Bless Us Every One."

CLARA HEARNE, *President*,  
North Carolina Bird Club.



## News of the Local Clubs

**HICKORY BIRD CLUB:** The Hickory Bird Club will begin a new routine with its November meeting. Plans have been under way since the September meeting to institute the change. A booklet will be issued to each member with a complete program of the meetings for the next eight months. The booklets will contain extra leaves with blanks for keeping a bird calendar.

One feature of the new routine may prove to be the highlight of the club's career. At each meeting, certain members have been assigned to the writing of a chapter for a book on birds which the club intends to have published. All members will be given an assignment. It will be each one's privilege to choose his or her own subject.

For a long time after the Hickory Bird Club was organized, we had a regular meeting place at an assembly room of one of the churches. On one occasion, one of the members invited the club to hold the next meeting at his home. From then on, the custom has been kept and a better attendance has been noted. The new program has named certain members for the meetings for the coming months. However, this has been made optional in case some member wanted to invite the club on a certain date.

The club received a letter from a post-war planning committee for the local city parks asking for recommendations for improvements in the parks, especially a large tract lying along the shores of Lake Hickory. Such a letter was sent to all of the local clubs. The Hickory Bird Club recommended that a "corner" be set aside in the park for a bird feeding ground; this to be accomplished by planting trees, shrubs, and vines, of the kinds which bear seeds, berries, and fruits of the sorts upon which birds feed.

Our club is seeking the privilege of being host to the annual spring meeting of the North Carolina Bird Club. A member was appointed at the last meeting to contact the officers of the state club to learn if this may be accomplished.

The Junior Bird Club which is sponsored by our club suspended meetings during the infantile paralysis outbreak, but activity in the club is to be resumed during the month.

J. WESTON CLINARD, *Vice-President.*

**PIEDMONT BIRD CLUB:** The 1944 Fall season was opened with the regular September meeting on the evening of the 21st, when the members and their guests met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Furnas, at Guilford College, and went on a field trip, led by Dr. Furnas, in the vicinity of Guilford College. They returned to the Furnas home for a picnic supper on the lawn and porch of their hosts. After supper a business meeting was held, and the program that followed was the highlight of the occasion. Mrs. Rose Marion Summers, of Montevideo, Uruguay, a member of the River Platte Ornithological Society, presented colored slides of the birds of Uruguay, accompanied by running comments on their habits and distribution. These birds, while very different from those of our own country, were, by certain characteristics, easy to recognize as members of bird families familiar to all of us. For instance, their Cardinal, while red, white and blue in coloring, was unmistakably a Cardinal just the same. Of great interest to the Club was the fact that Mrs. Summers had lent assistance to Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson when he was studying birds in South America, and we are delighted that she will be in our midst a few weeks longer.

The October meeting, held at the Science Building of the Woman's College on the evening of the 19th, was of particular interest because of the report of the Sanctuary Committee, headed by Dr. Shaftesbury, that plans for the inauguration of the Greensboro Bird Sanctuary were nearing completion, and also because of the outstanding report of the Field Trip Committee. Mrs. Margaret Wall, Field Trip Chairman, told about the field trips for adults and children that have been held and reported various members' observations on the birds which had returned to this

vicinity to spend the winter. A collection amounting to \$20 was taken for the Moore General Hospital, at Swannanoa. The program for this meeting included a group of three films, "Birds of Prey," "Thrushes and Relatives," and Dr. John Grey's beautiful colored film of the ducks, geese and swans on Lake Mattamussett, in Hyde county.

The Junior Field Trips got off to a good start on October 15, with a very successful trip led by Mrs. Edith Settan. It was little ten-year-old Arnold Culbreth, no bigger than a minute but an up and coming bird student, who discovered the Greater Yellow-legs feeding in the reeds at the edge of Scales Lake. This group also reported the Brown Creeper that day as well as a long list of other birds not quite so unexpected.

Field trips for adults have been held weekly for the last several weeks, the one on October 15th being to Sharpe's Lake. This group reported a Great Blue Heron and a Pied-billed Grebe, while on the same day a Coot was observed on Benjamin's Lake by several members.

Greensboro, N. C., Oct. 20, 1944.

ETTA SCHIFFMAN, *Recording Sec.*

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB: The preview of a moving picture of local bird life was shown to the members of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, on the evening of October 13, at the home of William H. Chance. The picture, "How to Attract Your Birds," was made during the past spring and summer at the homes of various members of the Club, the photographers being Henry C. Lindley and William Rothrock. Pictures were made of twelve species, including, among others, Robins, Bluebirds, Wrens, Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Warblers, Sparrows, Towhees, and Cardinals. The pictures are in color, and include some splendid shots of Wrens, and an outstanding series showing the Cardinal's eggs in the nest, and then showing the Cardinal feeding the young birds. In connection with this preview, it was stated that the Winston-Salem Bird Club would show the film throughout the city by request, and that engagements were already planned to show the pictures for the children's hour at the Carnegie Public Library, and at Wiley School.

Winston-Salem Boy Scout Troop 20, in co-operation with the Winston-Salem Bird Club, held a Bird Rally at Centenary Methodist Church, Sunday afternoon, November 5, which had a big attendance. The program included a worth while talk by E. V. Floyd, of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development; a quiz by H. Gardner Hudson, assisted by several Eagle Scouts; twenty-four recordings of bird songs and calls, by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology, accompanied by colored bird pictures; and a dandy talk to the Scouts on "How Scouts Can Help the Birds," given by Miss Nancy Eliason, Secretary of the North Carolina Bird Club. Troop 20 announced that the next week-end they take an over-night hike, a feature will be an early Sunday morning bird study trip under Jim Stephenson, President of the Winston-Salem Bird Club, the trip to be open to all who are eligible for the Bird Study Merit Badge.

HENRY MAGIE, *Acting Secretary.*

MECKLENBURG AUDUBON CLUB: The October meeting was a very interesting one with Dr. J. J. Murray, of Lexington, Va., as guest speaker. Dr. Murray is a nationally known ornithologist and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Audubon Society.

The November meeting will be held on the 21st, with Mr. Bert Hartwell as lecturer and entertainer. We are giving quite a bit of publicity to this meeting and inviting the public, as Mr. Hartwell is a very interesting speaker, and uses moving pictures and bird songs to illustrate his lecture.

The Club is sponsoring a contest in the grammar grades of the city schools this fall, offering prizes for the best bird houses and feeding stations built at the schools under supervision of the teachers.

ELIZABETH H. HARRIS, *Secretary.*



CHAPEL HILL BIRD CLUB: One field trip has been taken to University Lake, another one was postponed because the warden, Mr. Sykes, reports that the ducks have not yet arrived. University Lake is a new lake to which new species come with the years. The ornithologists who have resided in this region for some time are frequently making reference to the first appearance of various water birds at this lake. There are many other such fairly new bodies of water in North Carolina. Since these are undergoing changes which will not be repeated after equilibrium has been attained, here is some natural history in the strict sense which should be of special interest to bird lovers to observe and record.

The N. C. State Superintendent of Parks is to talk to the Chapel Hill Woman's Club on December 1, and the Chapel Hill Bird Club is inviting him for that night.

MAURICE WHITTINGHILL.

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## Land Birds on the Sea

THOMAS J. JONES, Durham

(Thomas J. Jones is a life-long resident of Durham, but during most of the past two years he has been at sea with the United States Merchant Marine Service. He graduated from N. C. State College in 1931, and spent most of the time from then until 1943 with the Erwin Cotton Mills Co. Early in 1943 he enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve, and was assigned to active duty with the U. S. Merchant Marine. In May, 1944, he came home for a brief sick leave, due to a back injury. Before World War II he was a member of the Duke-Durham Bird Club and joined their frequent bird trips. The birds he writes of in this article were first seen somewhere off Cape Hatteras on a southward trip and most of the birds were with them as far as the West Indies. Some more precise details can be added later. Recently Jones has been in the Mediterranean, and in a letter dated at Corsica, he writes: "I still have opportunity for limited bird study, but look forward to getting back to North Carolina and another field trip like that memorable one at Mattamuskeet."—Editor.)

On a sunny afternoon in October the storm we heard reports of a few days earlier had blown itself out completely, and the Atlantic was disturbed only by ships of the out-bound convoy. All isn't monotony on a long voyage, and on this particular trip promise of pleasant hours came early in the arrival of unexpected guests. They seemed very happy over finding us, too, for from the wheelhouse I could hear the most cheerful calls, that soon grew into an agreeable cacophony, as more and more songsters arrived. I could hardly wait for eight bells when I could go out and see just what was giving us the great surprise.

One of the first refugees I recognized was a Hermit Thrush. How strange it was to see this inhabitant of the woods out at sea—far east of the Gulf Stream! Here, he was still a detached individual though, for he was not one of the singing company, and flew for cover when I tried to come closer. The Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets were just the opposite, piping their thanks for crumbs as they ate in my hand, and allowed me to stroke their little heads with a finger tip. The Myrtle Warblers were quite tame, too. One day while I was sitting on the quarter deck, one flew down and perched on my head.



The birds were often fed by members of the ship's crew, and the steward would keep a pan of fresh water for them. A Purple Finch became his favorite and came near to eat hominy grits and lettuce.

In late afternoon I found most of the birds seeking their shelter for the night up forward in the fo'castle head. Other roosts were probably in the bridge space and other parts of the vessel.

Most numerous, besides the Kinglets, were Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, and Song Sparrows. I watched birds fly between ships in the convoy, and suppose about every ship must have been a refuge, but after several days less chirping was heard, and the number of birds seem gradually diminished. Those I saw only once or twice—and I presumed to be the only one of its kind—were: Cedar Waxing, House Wren, Catbird, Robin, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Meadow Lark. An officer told me he saw a Mourning Dove, a late arrival and pretty much ruffled and wet. There was, among the flock, a sparrow that I could not identify.

I hope that the gradual disappearance of the birds was due to close approach to islands, but fear that most of them died before reaching land. I feel certain that at least one of our friends survived. The last bird I saw on board, the day before our landfall, was a Junco. If he did make shore he was on another continent, far, far from where his brothers would winter.

On other occasions I have had the pleasure of meeting at sea a lost traveler, well known to me back home in town and country, but the time that scores of birds were guided to safety on my ship, made a lasting impression.

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## The North Carolina Bird Club Book Fund

HARRY T. DAVIS, Raleigh

The story of the work of the North Carolina Bird Club in securing 2,000 pre-publication subscriptions for the new volume, "Birds of North Carolina," 1942 edition, has already been told in *The Chat*. Also, the story of the gifts and loans, secured from many sources, and of the author services of T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley and H. H. Brimley, has been given here.

When printing time came, R. D. Bynum of Raleigh took a chance with us. Finally an agency for handling the book was necessary and the Executive Board of the North Carolina Bird Club set up the "North Carolina Bird Club Book Fund," and made the writer the Treasurer. This fund was not to be a club liability, and any excess sales over costs was to be used

for similar Natural History publications, those of the North Carolina State Museum to have preference.

The present report is that, with stringent economies, the \$8,000 which represents the cost of printing, paper, and minor illustrations, has been paid off within two years. A few hundred volumes are left and we hope that our schools and public libraries will take most of these as there may not be another issue in some years. Get copies from your dealer, or send your order direct to "The N. C. Bird Club Book Fund," Harry T. Davis Treasurer, care State Museum, Raleigh, enclosing check for the number of copies you desire. The price is \$3.50 a copy, including delivery.

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### 1944 Christmas Count, December 17-25

Co-operating with Audubon Magazine, hundreds of people all over the United States will make a Christmas count of the birds in their community. *All local clubs, groups and individuals are asked to make local counts wherever possible.* Enlist the help of every local bird enthusiast in this enjoyable game and see that beginners go with more experienced observers. Rocky Mount was missing from the regulars last year, and for the past two years no Christmas counts have been received from Arden, Southern Pines, and Washington, three of the old stand-bys. Let's have Christmas counts from all the regulars and from several new localities this year. The Audubon Society's suggestions for this year's count are not yet available, but the rules used during the past couple of years should be satisfactory.

#### Abbreviated Rules for the Count

1. Counts are to be made between December 17 and 25, inclusive. No counts should be taken earlier or later than these dates.
2. An adequate count for North Carolina localities should last at least seven hours and may not extend beyond one calendar day. From dawn to dusk is best.
3. The total area covered must not exceed a circle 15 miles in diameter.
4. Birds not actually recorded in the area itself are not to be included in the totals.
5. Birds must be listed in the order of the A. O. U. check list as followed in most recent bird books, as *Birds of North Carolina* and Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds*. Do not use sub-specific names, except in a few cases where subspecies can be readily identified in the field and you have made such identification.
6. Count all wild birds positively identified by sight or sound. Count exotic species, as English Sparrow and Starling, on the same basis as native birds. In case of unusual rarity, substantiating details must be given in parenthesis, immediately following the records, with the initials of the observer vouching for its identification.
7. A numerical value is to be given to the number of birds seen. Necessary estimates of large flocks should be indicated as such, and the words "abundant," "common," and such are to be avoided.

8. Observations made on foot while covering a prescribed route which will remain the same from year to year is preferred. Each hour afield by a lone observer counts as one hour, but observers, when working as a party, record only total hours the party was in the field. If a party breaks up into smaller groups, the time should be adjusted accordingly. Mileage should be recorded on the same basis.

9. Each participant or each party should submit only one report. The count should be submitted under the name of the most significant geographical locality in or adjacent to the area. Give the time of starting, ending, weather conditions, number of observers, the various habitat types covered and the total percentage of time spent in each, number of miles covered by cars and on foot, and names of observers.

10. If possible, reports should be typewritten, double spaced, and on one side of the paper. Try to airmail a report to the National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y., within 24 hours of the count. Mail another copy to *The Chat*, care Woman's College U. N. C., Greensboro, N. C., not later than December 29. Give names of all participants. A record on a *separate sheet of paper of the names and addresses of all participants* will be appreciated.

11. Check your report with the following sample report to see that it conforms.

#### Sample Report:

*White Pine Bird Sanctuary (Clover Co.) Ill.* (same area as 1927 count and subsequent counts; pine woodland 70¾%; pasture land 20%; small ponds 10%). Dec. 19. Overcast, with heavy fog until 10 a.m. and light snowfall from 3 p.m. on; wind N., 13-18 m.p.h.; temp. 40 degrees to 20 degrees F.; ground bare, water open. Three observers together. Total hours, 10 on foot; total miles, 12 on foot. Common loon, 1; Am. bittern, 1; European widgeon (a male seen at 500 yds. with 20X scope—H.L.M.), 1; Am. golden-eye, 100 (est.); Barrow's golden-eye, 1; kingfisher, 2; flicker, 6; Carolina chickadee, 21; Am. pipit, 6; yellow-throat (seen daily since Nov.), 1; English sparrow, 27; red-wing, 2,000 (est.); grackle, 6; slate-colored junco, 270. Total, 29 species, approximately 2,897 individuals. (Seen in area Dec. 22: Canada goose, 17; mallard, 2; coot, 5. The unusually heavy population of grain-eating species was due to the large amount of waste grain still available as a result of a severe storm just before the fall harvest season.)—H. L. MARK, R. C. SMITH, MARY PELT.

## Birds to Be Looked for in the 1944 Christmas Count in Inland North Carolina

C. S. BRIMLEY, Raleigh, N. C.

Last year I prepared a list of the birds that might be seen, expected or hoped for in inland North Carolina at Christmas time. This list would hold fairly well for all of North Carolina except the coastal strip where mainly water and shore-birds would be seen, and would hardly do for the mountain region either. Last year's list was in systematic order. This year I am trying to divide the birds according to the kind of locality they are most apt to frequent, although this will not prevent any species from turning up elsewhere. As I did last year, I am dividing the birds under each head into three groups: A. Reasonable certainties; B. Fair probabilities; C. Those that are little more than "hopes."

1. WATER BIRDS. Those likely to be seen on any large body of water, city reservoirs being the best chance as a rule. A. Pied-billed Grebe, Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Kingfisher. B. Great Blue



Heron, Gadwall, Mallard, Baldpate, Golden-eye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, American Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser. C. Loon, Horned Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, Pintail, Shoveller, Wood Duck, Redhead, Canvasback, Osprey.

2. MARSH BIRDS. Birds likely to be found in marshes or wet meadows, at any rate, not far from water. A. Killdeer, Phoebe, Swamp Sparrow. B. Wilson's Snipe, Redwing. C. Bittern, King Rail, Woodcock (this only in damp woods), Long-billed Marsh Wren, Rusty Blackbird.

3. OPEN COUNTRY BIRDS. Includes not only birds that naturally stay in open fields but also those that are mainly seen flying over and those that are oftenest seen sitting on telephone wires. A. Turkey Vulture, Sparrow Hawk, Dove, Crow, Bluebird, Mockingbird, Meadowlark, Field Sparrow. B. Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Harsh Hawk, Robin, Shrike, Starling, Cowbird, Purple Grackle, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow. C. Horned Lark, Pipit, Palm Warbler.

4. THICKET BIRDS. Birds that haunt thickets, whether wet or dry, highland or lowland. A. Carolina Wren, Cardinal, Towhee, Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. B. Brown Thrasher, Fox Sparrow. C. Catbird, Maryland Yellowthroat.

5. WOODLAND BIRDS. Birds found in woods or if not in woods usually in trees. A. Flicker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Warbler, Goldfinch. B. Bobwhite, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Myrtle Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Purple Finch. C. Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Screech Owl, Blue-headed Vireo, Crossbill, Bachman's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow.

6. BIRDS AROUND DWELLINGS. A. English Sparrow, Starling, etc. C. Bewick's Wren.

Of course some bird not in the list might turn up, such as a gull or an extra owl, but the list is pretty complete.

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THE YOUNGEST MEMBER: We believe that Master George H. Holmes, III, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Holmes, of Tryon, is just about the youngest member of the N. C. Bird Club. Young Master Holmes will soon start on his second year of membership in the N. C. B. C., and his age is in the vicinity of four years.

## High School Ornithology Essay Contest

The North Carolina Academy of Science is again offering \$20.00 as first prize for the best essay on birds by a North Carolina high school student. Second and third prizes will be a copy of the *Birds of North Carolina*. First prize is offered by Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson of Charlotte, and the North Carolina State Museum offers the other two.

The student should be able to draw upon his own actual field observation of birds. The scope of this essay contest does not include the treatment of birds from the standpoint of game.

The student may treat the subject from one or several of the following points of view:

1. *Interesting or unusual habits of birds.* This would include any peculiar trait, for instance shrike impaling victim of prey on thorns; the Crested Flycatcher putting a snake skin in its nest; the Mockingbird singing at night; the method by which the Herons feed their young; procedures of fish-eating birds in securing their food (Osprey, Terns, Herons, Loons, etc.)

2. *A study of the various types of nests,* including method of building, materials used, time of year built and type of eggs laid.

3. *Food habits of birds.* This would include methods of obtaining food, kind of food, way the young are fed.

4. *Birds of particular locality.* Such a paper could bring in all the birds seen in that region and the dates of nesting periods, physical characters of locality, etc.

5. *How to present bird study to beginners.* This would take up field identification, ways of getting the beginner interested as well as holding the interest.

6. *Seasonal distribution and migration of birds.* This would deal with the changing population of the various species of birds, winter and summer visitors, spring and fall migrants and the stragglers.

7. *The ratio and relation of birds to their environment.* Certain areas produce food for a certain group of birds, some areas are marshy and furnish cover and food for marsh birds.

8. *The value of bird protection and sanctuaries.*

The following regulations will apply:

The paper must be the work of a *bona fide* high school student registered in a North Carolina high school and so certified by the principal.

The paper must not be more than 2,000 words in length presented on 8½x11 inch paper, written, preferably typewritten, on one side only.

A bibliography listing all books, magazines or other publications used as source material must be included at the end of the essay. The list of sug-

gested references below indicates the form in which the citations should be made. Excerpts and quotations should be limited and must be indicated.

Papers must be in the hands of the High School Committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science, Murray F. Buell, Chairman, State College, Raleigh, N. C., not later than March 15, 1945.

### RECOMMENDED BOOKS

1. ALLEN, ARTHUR A. *Book of Bird Life*. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York, 1930.
2. CHAPMAN, FRANK M. *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*. D. Appleton & Company, New York, 1930.
3. FORBUSH, EDWARD HOWE, and MAY, JOHN BICHARD. *Natural History of the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*. Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1939.
4. PEARSON, T. GILBERT, BRIMLEY, C. S., and BRIMLEY, H. H. *Birds of North Carolina*. N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, 1942.
5. PEARSON, T. GILBERT, and others. *Birds of America*. Garden City Publishing Company, Inc., Garden City, New York, 1942.
6. PETERSON, ROGER TORY. *Field Guide to Birds*. Houghton-Mifflin Company, Boston, 1934 and 1939.

### PERIODICALS

1. *The Chat*, published by the North Carolina Bird Club, Woman's College, Greensboro, N. C.
2. *Audubon Magazine*, published by the National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.

In citing an article from a periodical as a reference, the following form should be used:

Sprunt, Alexander, Jr., 1942. Sight records. *The Chat*, Vol. 6. pp. 50-54.

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## Bird Talks in Our Public Schools

HENRY MAGIE, Winston-Salem

On invitation of the principal of Wiley Graded School our Winston-Salem Club today opened the series of "Talks on Our Birds," to 54 selected boys and girls, 12 to 14 years, fine alert chaps, keen for knowledge and eager to tell of their study of the species they see at their home lot and in the parks.

Ten minutes of elementary talk, naming groupings, sizes, all year residents, summer nesting, winter visitors and the migrant stragglers. Water Fowl were omitted as we only have these birds on a river 18 miles away.



Followed by 15 minutes quiz, with the kids the questioners, and me as the Joel Kupperman, and my surprise was in the intelligent questions asked, the broad scope of these kids' study. We had six Boy Scouts and one had passed his test in identifying 40 species of birds.

We ran over time, not intentionally, as the teacher sat there deeply interested. The kids invited me to return, and selected as my subject, "Hawks and Owls." You know that I'm going. This morning's thrill, deep satisfaction to look into those intelligent faces was a major emotion that will be repeated when The Children's Home School fixes the date for my talk to some 100 of their 400 children.

October 25, 1944.

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## The Piedmont Club Bird House Contest

EMMA LEAH PERRETT, Greensboro

Beginning in February, 1944, the Piedmont Bird Club sponsored a city-wide bird house contest among the Greensboro school children, as a forerunner to having Greensboro made a Bird Sanctuary. Twelve schools participated. In March, 530 certificates were awarded to school children. These certificates were attractively printed in two colors, and the 530 represented the erection of a total of 798 approved bird houses, 71 bird feeders, and 32 bird baths. At the end of the contest, on May 25th, sets of 50 Audubon bird cards went to the children in each school who had the most occupied bird houses, and prizes of books, *Birds of North America*, by John James Audubon, went to two schools, Lindley Elementary, in the class with over 500 enrollment, which had 73 occupied bird houses, and Clara J. Peck School, in the class with less than 500 enrollment, which had 38 occupied bird houses. A total of 249 of the bird houses were occupied, which was approximately 31% of those erected. This somewhat low percentage of occupancy may be partly due to lack of availability of suitable sites for some of the houses, as well as to the fact that many were put up too late to attract such birds as Bluebirds. Three schools, Curry, Irving Park, and Proximity, reported 55 occupied houses out of 103 erected, a 54% occupancy. Mrs. George W. Perrett, education chairman of the Piedmont Bird Club, and her committee, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, Dr. Wesley Taylor, Raymond P. Kaighn, John Aaron Smith, and teacher representatives in the twelve schools were in charge of the contest. The club members were well pleased with the contest and plan a similar contest next year.

Several inquiries regarding the "Greensboro Plan" have been received, so here are some of the details which might suggest some working ideas to other local bird clubs. The plans for the contest crystallized in three

meetings. 1. Club council meeting where the idea was first presented. 2. Planning committee meeting of six selected, enthusiastic members discussed and drew up tentative rules for the contest. 3. "Get Set, Ready, Go Committee" of twelve teachers, each representing a different school, met with the planning committee. The tentative rules were presented and discussed, and definite plans were made.

RULES OF THE CONTEST. Time—Feb. 1-May 20, 1944. 1. A certificate was to be awarded to any school child who was responsible for the erection, by March 15, of one or more bird houses, feeding stations, or bird baths approved by the teacher in charge of the contest in the school. (Several leaflets, "Bird Houses," by Roger Tory Peterson, published by the National Audubon Society, were sent to each school. In all, one hundred of these leaflets were distributed at the expense of the Piedmont Bird Club.) 2. A prize was to be awarded in each school to one child who had the most occupied bird houses by May 20, these occupied houses to be checked by the teacher. (English Sparrows were not to be counted.) 3. Two school prizes were to be awarded for the largest number of bird houses occupied by May 20, one to a school in the class of schools with over 500 enrollment, and the other to a school in the class of those with less than 500 enrollment.

During the first two weeks of the contest, members of the Piedmont Bird Club, including Dr. Wesley Taylor, Dr. A. D. Shaftesbury, and Raymond P. Kaighn, made talks in each of the city schools to explain the contest, arouse enthusiasm, and enlist the children's participation in bird activities to increase their knowledge of birds and their desire to protect them. Also, Junior field trips were conducted weekly from March first to June first, with students selected from each school by the teacher who was in charge of the bird house contest. These students gave reports to their classes after each Saturday or Sunday trip. The same students might be selected week after week, or, in other cases, new ones were chosen. Leaders for the Junior trips were ten volunteer members from the Club, who were ably assisted on the trips by three of our Boy Scout members, Bill Craft, Larry Crawford, and Tom Zapf. After the first few weeks, another Junior group was organized, composed of those children who showed special interest and knowledge, and, from then on, two Junior trips were conducted each week.

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NESTING BOXES: Take down all your nesting boxes now and clean them thoroughly, repair and repaint them where necessary, and replace a few for refuge for wintering woodpeckers and other birds.

FEEDERS: Clean your feeders and start feeding winter birds now. Have on hand ample food for your wintering birds. Watch weather reports for all storms—snow, sleet, rain. Your birds will count on you to be prepared.

## Field Notes and News

**BLUEBIRDS NESTING AT DURHAM:** The following data show that it takes 13-14 days for Bluebirds to hatch their eggs, and Chickadees about the same time. Two broods of Bluebirds remained in the box 16 days after hatching. An egg is laid in succession four or more, usually five days. I assume that incubation begins the day the last egg is laid. My Bluebird box, put up in 1936, about four feet above the ground on a fence post, has had tenants every year since. Convenient inspection of the box is due to its height and its having a hinged top. The Bluebird data follows: 1936—First brood, March 26, five eggs; 4 young hatched, April 8; left nest April 24-27. Second brood, May 17, four eggs; May 31, hatched 3 young; all left nest June 16. 1937—April 5, five eggs; hatched April 18, four young. 1938—April 2, five eggs; hatched April 16, five young. 1939—March 24, five eggs; hatched April 7, five young. 1941—April 5, five eggs; five young last seen in box on April 22. Carolina Chickadee. 1939—April 2, six eggs; April 15, six young

THOMAS I. JONES

**BURNSVILLE:** I saw an American Egret on Cane River here, on July 24. They are quite unusual in the mountains.

D. L. WRAY, JR.

**LATE SONG SPARROWS AT GREENSBORO:** Song sparrows were recorded on the regular Piedmont Bird Club trips this spring as late as April 16. These were possibly the last of the winter residents, and, I believe, were not observed in the Lake Daniel area. My records of Song Sparrows from the Lake Daniel area begin with April 22, when, with the Junior Bird group and Dr. Shaftesbury, we got an unmistakable song record. On a Junior trip on April 29, we saw and heard a Song Sparrow in the same region. On May 7, Miss Frances Russell and I observed, from very close range, two Song Sparrows singing near Lake Daniel. On June 11, Mrs. Edith Settan, Miss Inez Coldwell, and I, saw a Song Sparrow, perched on a lamp post and singing, on the bridge near the lake. Tom Zapf reports that three or more Song Sparrows were heard and seen in this vicinity nearly every day throughout the summer, remaining at least until the arrival of the winter visitors in late September. No nests were found.

JOSEPHINE STEWART.

**HENDERSON:** I have seen a good number of Northern Water Thrushes, the first on August 30, and up to September 7. I saw six on one stream one Saturday afternoon at the Kings Daughters Park here. On August 28, a large number of both Black and White Warblers and Redstarts were in the trees in my yard. Each oak had several of each kind, and I also saw a good many Redstarts on September 27. On the 21 I saw an immature Chestnut-sided Warbler. On August 29, the first Magnolia Warbler was seen and from then up to September 17. I note Statesville gives May 18 as latest date for Blackpoll Warbler this spring, but I saw one as late as May 23. Are Redbellied Woodpeckers common throughout the Piedmont section of the state? I've never seen but two, one in my yard at Charlotte when I lived there, and one here in Henderson. As Miss Hunter has never seen one at all, I was wondering if they were rarer than one would gather from reading about them. Here are a few more warbler dates, of some interest, Prairie Warbler, and Yellowbreasted Chat, lasts September 22; Cape May and Blackpoll, firsts September 26, and Blackthroated Blue on October 2.

JEANNETTE S. BACHMAN.

**GLOSSY IBIS AGAIN NEAR SOUTHPORT:** On July 22, 1944, I saw three specimens of this species on Battery Island near here. On August 2, however, a storm blew down a number of trees on the island and scattered salt spray all over the place, and the Herons, and other birds which had been nesting on the island deserted it and went elsewhere.

DOUGLAS JONES.



**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER NESTING AT WEAVERVILLE:** On May 23, I found a nest of this species here, containing three young. It was 20 feet up on the horizontal limb of a hemlock and three feet from the trunk.

JOHN TROTT, JR., New London, N. C.

**NEW LONDON:** On May 17, I found nest of the Grasshopper Sparrow on the ground in a dry field. There were five eggs in the nest. Two male Cerulean Warblers noted on July 31. Last nests observed this year were two of Field Sparrow on August 2, one with three young, the other with three eggs. A female Baltimore Oriole on August 27, a Blackbilled Cuckoo on September 8, and the last Yellow Warbler the same day. Last Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Prairie Warbler, and Yellow-throated Vireo on September 12.

JOHN TROTT, JR.

**ROANOKE RAPIDS:** I took a bird walk this afternoon (October 8), covering three blocks on the edge of town. This is a list of the birds seen: Several Pine Warblers, two Mockingbirds, two Catbirds, several Jays, Dove, Brown Thrasher, four Cardinals, one Yellowbilled Cuckoo, three Towhees, several Pewees, Myrtle Warblers, Downy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmice, Chickadees, Bobwhite, White-throated Sparrow (first this season), Nashville Warbler (saw him yesterday), two Golden-crowned Kinglets, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets (saw two of these last Wednesday, October 4), Flicker, two Chipping Sparrows taking a bath.

CLARA HEARNE.

**A TRYON MOCKINGBIRD:** About twenty years ago a pair of Mockingbirds started to build a nest in some climbing roses which grew up against our piazza. A lot of this bush had been killed by cold during the preceding winter, and Mrs. Holmes had her gardener take off some of the dead stuff. In doing this she discovered the birds were starting a nest. Although the immediate surroundings of the nest were not disturbed, the birds abandoned the nest and went away, presumably to nest elsewhere. The following fall the male bird alone returned and spent the winter with us, but left about the first of April, presumably to find a mate and nest elsewhere. He returned in August when figs were ripe and remained all winter till spring when he went off again. This has been repeated uniformly for twenty years, and I think undoubtedly it was the same bird. Early this spring we found him dead, having been mauled by something but not eaten. Now that this bird has gone, a pair of Mockingbirds have taken up their abode in the garden.

G. H. HOLMES, Tryon, N. C.

**FALL FIELD TRIP AT RALEIGH:** Mrs. Roxie Simpson, being in town for a few days, conducted a field trip on September 6, going out to Lakes Raleigh and Johnson and vicinity. Sixty-seven species were noted as follows: Piedbilled Grebe, Great Blue, Little Blue and Green Herons, American Egret, Blue-winged Teal (7), Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Redshouldered and Sparrow Hawks, Bald Eagle (adult plumage), Osprey, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover (5), Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary, Spotted, Pectoral and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Common Tern, Dove, Nighthawk, Swift, Hummingbird, Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-headed and Downy Woodpeckers, Kingbird, Crested and Acadian Flycatchers, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Tree and Barn Swallows, Crow, Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadee, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Mocker, Catbird, Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Shrike, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Black and White, Magnolia (12), and Pine Warblers, Northern Water Thrush, Redstart, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Redwing, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak (carrying food to young), Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow.

ROXIE C. SIMPSON, JOHN COFFEY, JR., ERNEST MITCHELL, NORMAN McCULLOCH.

**CANADA WARBLER AT RALEIGH:** On September 7, I saw a female Canada Warbler here, also a Northern Water Thrush. I believe this is the first fall record for Raleigh for the former.

ERNEST MITCHELL.

GREENSBORO: First and last observations of fall migrants and wanderers, 1944. (Many of these records are by Larry Crawford or Tom Zapf, or both, and to save space, the initials C and Z are used respectively for their observations). American Egret, Sept. 17, Z.; Snowy Egret, Sept. 2, C. & Z.; Solitary Sandpiper, Sept. 9, A. D. S. Oct. 8, C. & Z.; Greater Yellow-legs, Oct. 15-22; Lesser Yellow-legs, Sept. 1; Pectoral Sandpiper, Sept. 1-23; Sora Rail, Sept. 22, Mrs. Settan; Bewick's Wren, Aug. 26-Oct. 7, C.; Olive-backed Thrush, Oct. 8, Margaret Wall; Veery, Sept. 1-10, C.; Worm-eating Warbler, Aug. 19, Bill Craft; Sept. 3, C.; Golden Winged W., Aug. 25, C.; Blue-winged W., Sept. 15, Z.; Tennessee W., Oct. 8; Magnolia W., Aug. 31-Oct. 16, C.; Cape May W., Oct. 3-8; Black-throated Blue W., Sept. 15-Oct. 24; Black-throated Green W., Sept. 9-Oct. 22; Blackburnian W., Bill Craft, Aug. 27-Sept. 24; Chestnut-sided W., Aug. 23-Oct. 8; Bay-breasted W., Oct. 7-15, Z., Geo. A. Smith; Palm W., Oct. 14-15; Yellow Palm W., Oct. 14-22; Northern Water Thrush, Sept. 4-18; Connecticut Warbler, Sept. 24, Geo. A. Smith; Canada W., Aug. 31.

Summer visitors, last observations, 1944: Green Heron, Oct. 22; Broad-winged Hawk, Sept. 9, C.; Spotted Sandpiper, Sept. 10, Z.; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Oct. 7, C.; Nighthawk, Oct. 13 (10 birds), C.; Chimney Swift, Oct. 18; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Sept. 24, Z.; Crested Flycatcher, Oct. 1, C.; Wood Pewee, Oct. 10, C.; Purple Martin, the main group, a couple of hundred or more, left Justamere Farm Aug. 5, a few, usually about two or three at a time, returned occasionally during the next three weeks.—Dr. Wesley Taylor; House Wren, Sept. 14, Z.; Catbird, Oct. 7, A. D. S. & Z.; Brown Thrasher, Oct. 8; Wood Thrush, Oct. 8, A. D. S. & Geo. A. Smith; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sept. 15, Z.; White-eyed Vireo, Oct. 22, C. & Z.; Yellow-throated Vireo, Sept. 15, Z.; Red-eyed Vireo, Sept. 24, Geo. A. Smith; Black and White Warbler, Oct. 15, Etta Schiffman; Yellow W., Aug. 17, C.; Yellow-throated W., Oct. 7, C. & Z.; Prairie W., Sept. 21, Z.; Ovenbird, Oct. 16, Z.; Maryland Yellowthroat, Oct. 14, C.; Yellow-breasted Chat, Sept. 15, Z.; Hooded Warbler, Sept. 10, A. D. S.; Redstart, Oct. 15; Summer Tanager, Sept. 21, Z.; Blue Grosbeak, Oct. 1, C. & Z.; Indigo Bunting, Sept. 24; Grasshopper Sparrow, Aug. 17, C.

Winter visitors, first observations, 1944: Pied-billed Grebe, Sept. 24; Canada Goose, Oct. 16; Black Duck (6), Oct. 19; Blue-winged Teal, Sept. 2, Crawford & Zapf (possibly earliest record for state); Marsh Hawk, Sept. 9, C.; Coot, Oct. 14, C. & Z.; Wilson's Snipe, Aug. 30, C.; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Sept. 18, Z.; Brown Creeper, Oct. 17, Z.; Winter Wren, Oct. 7, C. & Z.; Hermit Thrush, one found dead, Oct. 15, Margaret Wall; Golden-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 12, Z., Geo. A. Smith; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oct. 7, C. & Z.; Pipit, Oct. 7, C & Z.; Myrtle Warbler, Oct. 4, A. D. S., Z.; Pine Siskin, Oct. 29, Etta Schiffman & Edith Settan; Slate-colored Junco, Oct. 13, Z.; White-throated Sparrow, Sept. 24; Swamp Sparrow, Oct. 28, C.; Song Sparrow, Oct. 15 (12).

Nest Record, Black and White Warbler, Apr. 16, found by Bill Craft; was being built under a log on the ground in pine woods; Apr. 25, four eggs; May 14, nest deserted.

Had heard Shrikes called French Mockingbirds and supposed that this name might be due to resemblance in color and size, but for the first time I heard one singing, on Oct. 2. Until I saw the bird, I thought it might be a Catbird or a young Mockingbird. On Oct. 8, I heard another one singing, or possibly it was the same bird, since it was about five blocks from where I had seen the first one.

ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY.

BLUFF MOUNTAIN PARK: On the afternoon of Sept. 4, I spent about 2½ hours at Bluff Mountain Park, which is on the Sky-line Drive, in the edge of Wilkes county, at an elevation above 2,900 feet, and saw the following birds: Nighthawk, flying southward; Phoebe (2); Crow, five flying southward; Meadow-



lark (2); Goldfinch (4); Junco; Chipping Sparrow, one feeding a young one. Also saw a small, long-tailed hawk which I was not able to identify.

ARCHIE D. SHAFTESBURY.

HIGHLANDS: We saw many interesting birds during the month of August this year, at Highlands, which has an average elevation of 4,118 feet. With Miss Roberta Lovelace, of Wingate Junior College, Wingate, N. C., I observed four species which Henry M. Stevenson, Jr., did not list in his "Summer Residents of the Highlands, North Carolina, Region," which was published in *The Oriole*, V. 6, No. 4, Dec., 1941, p. 41-48. These four were: Nighthawk, Aug. 12, 22 (2), 23, 28 (3); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Aug. 2, 4, 5, 9 (2), 10, 11, 12, 15; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Aug. 28; and American Egret, Aug. 26. Cedar Waxwings were observed every day during the month. In 1943 we saw Red Crossbills at Highlands almost every day from July 15 to Aug. 19, but this year we have only the following records for Red Crossbills: Aug. 5, 9, 13, 22 (3). No English Sparrows were seen at Highlands during August, 1944, but one was noted, on Aug. 15, at nearby Cashiers, and three were observed Aug. 25, on Peel's Creek Road, near Gneiss.

JOSEPHINE STEWART.

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## With the Editor

NEWS OF YOUR LOCAL CLUB: Will you please see that your local Bird Club president or other representative sends promptly to *The Chat* the news of your club meetings or other special activities. The "deadline" for copy for the January issue of *The Chat* is January 1, 1945, but, if possible, get your November-December news to us before January 1.

NEW OFFICERS OF LOCAL CLUBS: Please send promptly to *The Chat* the names and addresses of the new officers of your local club, and be sure the names are written plainly.

WINSTON-SALEM BIRD CLUB'S COLORED MOVIE: A card from Henry Magic says that their new colored movie, which was taken by their two expert photographers (one a professional), is a "wow." (See Club News in this *Chat*.) It is 35 mm. and runs about 12 minutes. If they don't wear it out showing it to so many Winston-Salem groups, perhaps the Winston-Salem Bird Club could be persuaded to make arrangements to show it elsewhere.

GOOD WATERFOWL SEASON EXPECTED AT MATTAMUSKEET: According to an Associated Press dispatch, the ducks have been coming in slow in the Currituck area, though there are as many geese as usual, and the hunters are expecting a good waterfowl season in the Mattamuskeet and Currituck areas. We hope that Samuel H. Lamb, at the Mattamuskeet Wildlife Refuge, will find time to get together some notes for the January number of *The Chat*.

THE HICKORY BIRD CLUB—is certainly a live group. Read their report in the "News of the Local Clubs," in this *Chat*, and see if it doesn't give you some new enthusiasm and some new ideas. And they certainly mean business about wanting to have the next annual spring meeting of the N. C. Bird Club at Hickory.

SPEAKING OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING—reminds us that the N. C. Bird Club President, Miss Hearne, and the Executive Committee are already starting to work on getting a speaker for a possible May, 1945, meeting.



*Unless You Have Already Paid Your Membership Fee for 1945*  
**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL EXPIRE JANUARY 1st**

Of course the North Carolina Bird Club Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, 6 Springdale Court, Greensboro, N. C., is not sending you a bill until about January 1st, *BUT* we are making the suggestion that we hope you can find it convenient to remit your dues before that time so as to save a lot of late holiday work for your Treasurer. Remember, the North Carolina Bird Club has no paid officers. Thank you for considering this suggestion.

Regular Membership	\$ 1.00
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MRS. MARGARET Y. WALL, *Treasurer*  
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